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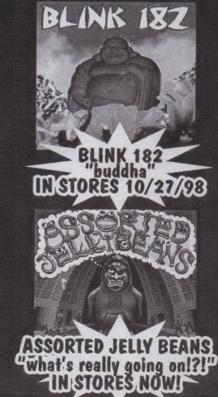
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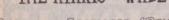
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Mobtown . Debongires SATURDAY DECEMBER 12TH . THE BARN . 58

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2 Skinny J's Frontside

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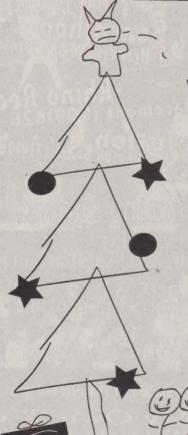
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Correction: The photos in the Snap-her interview in August's issue were shot by Petter Wichman, not Jason Cole.

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free

6

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Enjoy the holidays because it's your holidays. Selfish asshole. Be merry. People are starving. Go ahead and celebrate. People are dying. Buy lots of gifts. Feed your own family. Do for yourself. You, You, You. And People are crying. Enjoy the holidays because it's your holiday. Happy holidays my friends.

Peace. - Scott Presant

The editor does not necessarily share the opinions expressed in this publication. The editor really could doesn't like to edit. He finds it tedious and boring. However, he does enjoy swimming, playing marbles, and just "shooting the shift" with his homies. Sometimes, hell even play a little hoop with the boyz. He then usually proves the theory, "White Men Can't Jump."

Send all submissions to:

17300 17th st. suite J #223 tustin. ca 92780

feel free to email us at: scottskratch@earthlink.net

at. recattebesteb Bourthlink not

scottskratch@earthlink.net

31:

Sn

THE TENTH

favorite quote from our mailbox: ou' and 'suck my dick' are the only things you want to not worth listening to.

To Marcia Taylor,

Greetings dame.

Greetings dame.

I am in the administrative segregation of Orange County's jail, and I just received an issue of Skratch, July 1998. It took awhile to filter down to the best of the worst. Outta the whole rag, your reply to Nick "the Trick" from San Diego was the best. Enclosed is some poetry a lass of your intellectual level might find appealing. If not, whatever! Fuck it! Seeing as I can't get ahold of your next issue (due to circumstances beyond my control) n/e wayz would you shoot me a copy of your next issue and an outlet that supplies Skratch, preferences the resumd the Newport Beach area. Parkage I can find sameone to take a few minutes. ably around the Newport Beach area. Perhaps I can find someone to take a few minutes outta their busy schedule to rustle me up the following issues. I wouldn't mind reading the letter that sparked such a response, either. Till next time.

> Wondering what you look like. Ballistic Erik Dunn, #1813761

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Poem by Ballistic

I have no regrets for the pain of life, For it has given me strength Nor for the sorrow, For it has made me real and helped me to understand myself Nor for the despair For I have cast off illusion

I have no regrets for the loneliness Nor for the rage of anger. For through it, I have found inner peace. Nor for having made enemies,

Who taught me what not to be I have no regrets for the death of loved ones. For they have showed me how to live. Nor for rejected love.

For I have learned to love myself. Nor for the passage of time. That which has given me my memories.

I have no regrets for the shackles of deception, For I have broken through the walls Of the prison of my mind.

Nor for the wandering, Which has led me home. Nor for the road taken,

Which has opened my eyes to destiny. For life is born of struggle And the will to survive. . .

This letter is concerning the review that Jason Chittenden did on Officer Negative's album, in issue #32 (October). My name is Kyle Fisher, and I play in the Christian hardcore band, No Innocent Victim, and I think that doggin' those guys for being Christians is pretty weak. It's one thing to say that they aren't good musicians, but to attack what they believe in is another, calling them "retards, and f____ dumb asses." Yo man, I've been involved in hardcore and punk for close to ten years now, and for as long as I can remember, it's always been about not fitting in and standing up for your convictions, exactly what those kids are doing. So before you start jumping on your "it's punk rock to dog Christians" band wagon, why don't you learn more about it, rather than just believing what you hear? Jesus came to give us life, not to condemn us. He is the one who was anti-religion, and for just a relationship. He was the one hangin' in the slums with poor people and feeding them. I know that ship. He was the one hangin in the sums with poor people and reeding them. I know that it's easy to judge Christians because of money hungry TV evangelists, but according to the Bible, they're wrong, same as any other person who gives God a bad name. It's like a black person stole your car, but it doesn't mean all black people are, that's whack! So all I'm saying is, before you knock it, try it. I challenge you and anybody else to read the Bible for themselves and ask as many questions as possible. That's how I learned. Thanks for your time.

Sincerely, "Sheltered Christian Kid that Doesn't Know a Thing About Music

P.S. Please respond: 412 Robinhood Ln., Redlands, CA 92373

Dear Scott,

The Anti-Issue has giving me a woody, a woody so hard and true, that a cat could not scratch it. Please keep up the good work.

> Yours. Frank Kozik/Man's Ruin records

Kyle Fisher

Helio Mr. Kevynn Malone!
Yes, I did read thoroughly; your story, poem, whatever the hell it was! Anyway, I just could not go on living without mentioning the fact that you misspelled G.G. Allin's name. Considering the context in which you used his name, I'm sure you would want to be conrected! I'm 33 and a punk rock girl (not grrrl . . .) from a ways back. I hate trying to classify

myself in order to show my interests or tastes, but whatever, blah, blah, blah! I'm afraid this letter won't get any more aggressive than this. Shit, I guess I just dig on your periodical literature and it keeps me happy and horny!

> Love to all, Krista L. Bruce

I am just curious as to how old you are. Because you seem to have the mentality of a third grader. It seems to me you couldn't have an intelligent conversation if your pathetic life grader. It seems to me you couldn't have an intelligent conversation if your pathetic life depended on it. Now, do me a little favor; as you're sitting there thinking of ways to humiliate me, think about what could possibly be wrong with you. If you come up with nothing, well, I have news for you — EVERYTHING!!! You're a fucking disgrace to the human race. Pull your head outta your ass and quit trying to play God. If there was a God, you'd be the furthest thing from it, and there is no God, so don't worry about it. I am giving you things to humiliate me with since I know your pathetic ass has to put me down, or else you'd be some fucked up, depressed, suicidal pussy, who no one would give a rat's ass about if we found you hanging over a freeway overpass or shot in the Santa Ana ghetto. You're not punk, so quit acting like you are. People like you exploit and fuck up the scene which a few of us try so hard to keep and build upon. Some of us are proud to be punk, unlike yourself, a dumb queer using the title of punk as a way to be a complete fucking dickhead to people. Well asshole, I hope you have fun with this letter. Please show us your intelligence. ROT IN HELL, FUCKER!!!

> Later. **Huntington Beach**

Hi Drunk Boi,

Wait a minute...Do I really need to respond to a drunk boy? Anyhow, to answer your questions: I just turned twelve and I don't try to play God and I like popcorn with caramel on it, no not human disgrace, no no no, yes I exploit the scen that; s good write? Uh...no not proud to be punk. Can't show intelligence when I busy rotting in hell. It's so hot-hard 2 think u know?

bye bye, Scotty, SKRATCH

From: SellFish5@aol.com To: scottskratch@earthlink.net

hey,

i am writing to you to express what i think about anarchy. I think "anarchist" don't really understand what anarchy is beacuse if they did they wouldn't live in america. If they were true anarchist they would grow their own food, raise animals, made their own clothes, build their own house and so forth. You can like the idea of anarchy but writing it on clothes that you've boughten is being a hipercytes. Or like people buy anarchy shirts and patches. That's crap. The government over sees that buisness that they just bought the shirt from. Yes, you can think anarchy is a good idea but unless your a squatter, homeless or live in a little country you can't be an anarchist. So all you "anarchist" are fucking losers, and if you don't share my feeling it's no use writing this magizine to say so, because i think i am right and i don't care about you. care about you.

> truley. Marissa Centeno, Corona CA

I hate them damn hipercytes too specially that darn one I boughten with the shirt all sweaty Ya' know from rydin it so long. Fast hipercytes--usually turn it up pritty high and just burn off those anarchy calories. Ya know? Is their an Anarchist application I don't know about? There's rules now? I blame it on those hipercytes--take up to much damn time of mine, if you don't care bout me--I don't care bout you! Even if you boughten me a hipercyte.

> dumbfoundedly Scott, SKRATCH

Dear SKRATCH.

I was glad to see your piece on the absurd, fascist dress codes rapidly spreading through the high schools. No one should doubt that the primary function of the contemporary high school in America is social control, not education. The societal campaign against young people's rights has become frenzied these last few years - dress codes; curfews (night and day); alcohol and drug tasting; new driving restrictions; pellos success to the property of the property day); alcohol and drug testing; new driving restrictions; police sweeps targeting youth smoking, skateboarding, "loitering;" frantic attempts to make much of the internet inaccessible to "minors." I could go on and on. But, I have a confession to make For several years, I was a paid stooge of this loathsome control apparatus - a high school

DID YOU WRITE US A LETTER YET TO SHOW SKRATCH HOW IGNOBANT YOU BEALLY ABER

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substitute teacher in a medium-size So Cal school district. A sub teacher is really the clearest sign of the true mission of high school. In college, if a professor gets sick, they can just cancel the class for the day. But, in high school, "supervision" must go on. So, I spent many a day supposedly "teaching" classes like chemistry, calculus, etc., that I hadn't even ever taken myself! It was often the ultimate slacker job, aside from the early

I tried to be the nice guy - to lower the level of nagging and general oppression strudents experience on a typical day. If, by chance, I could help them with their work, fine. If they wanted to sleep, or just kick back and shoot the shit cool. Hats, obscere shirts? problem in "my" class.

Ultimately, of course, this leniency did cost me my job, though it took a while. That's fine it was time to move on. I just hope some of the cool people I've met will find ways to assert their rights.

Scott, you're great with the quips, so give me your best shot. But, if you print this, I love

John Russell JohnRussell-65@prodigy.net

Glad you took notice to our profile regarding the current high school dress codes. It sickens me when thinking about the interview I conducted with the vice principal at Villa Park High School. Thanks for sharing your personal experience and good luck to you.

Sincerely,

From: JOHNNY WINTON, blew47@hotmail.com To: scottskratch@earthlink.net

Dear Skratch...(my balls)

What the fuck are you thinking? You guys try to be the anti-magazine, but you dont realize that you are coming off as complete incompitent assholest People fucking hate you guys, you dont even realize it! You dont realize that you are trying way too hard to fit into the underground media by becoming complete assholes! I mean what do you guys do to produce this thing every month, BLOW RODEO CLOWNS? You really think that your audience is big? Shit, your audience is as big as Scott's dick! Trust me thats not very fertile. You have to make up controversy, just to compete because you guys are always gonna be failing journalists! Dont you guys know by the way you talk in your magazines, never reside to your talk resort? Welp you sure are doing it now, putting in all this blood sweat and tears for your stupid peice of shit rat-bastard magazine! You guys are the after birth of all media, deal with it! You couldn't reckognize real talent if it came in your acned faces!You are nothing but a bunch of fucking rat terd freaks!You are all skanky, and ugly, and all reek of three week old menstration! How dare you guys even acknowledge bands such as Jeffries Fan Club! They are only one of the hottest groups around!You cant even give a good label like Vegas records a good reveiw, because you think they suck, when really its you who dont have a real ear for music! You will always be a bunch of wannabes! SUCK IT EASY LOSERS!

Shalome, The Movement!

P.M.S.- I bet you guys wont even print this shit!

Hi Johnny,
What the fuck am I thinking? I was thinking what a nice day it is until I read this. Now I'm thinking, what the fuck are you thinking? What do you think or should I say did you think before you wrote this? I mean come on, you can't even spell. And we don't "talk" in our magazine. Hearing voices? Did your SKRATCH issue come with an audio tape? I'll be sure to include you to the Anti-SKRATCH Fan Club. How did you know I am skanky and ugly? Sorry I printed your letter, but I like the way you talk in the magazine. Like, the way you talk, you know? Seek help immediately.

Scott, SKRATCH

Letter from the editor:

For three years, Dan Gruia and I have published SKRATCH. A punk rock team if you will. He helped coordinate and orchestrate my goals (putting out a raw indie zine without censorship). We suceeded in doing that and turned a 12 page zine into a 4/c glossy cover 72-80 page zine which you hold in your hands right now. What I am getting at is this, as of last month Dan and I parted ways. We are still friends and just felt it was time to go in different directions. I will continue straining out an issue every month and Dan is starting up a punk rock record label called Lik My Dong Records. Bands and/or anyone inclined to help out or get in contact with Dan and/or his label, call 714 997-3027.

Also, anyone interested in doing an internship at SKRATCH drop email (scottskratch@earthlink.net).

> Thanx for reading. Scott, SKRATCH

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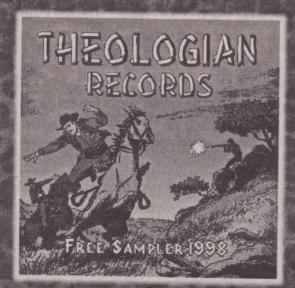


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For Xmas this year, I'll put anchovies in those plastic egg shells and hide them around the house for my cats. I'll plant a booby tree. I'll jam stuffing up a turkey,s butt. I'll drink immense amounts of alcohol and wake up in the morning disoriented, electric-mouthed and head-thudding – oh, wait, that's for later this month, no, that's for every day. No, for Xmas this year, I'll stuff my stockings full of feet. I get nosebleeds. Well, I used to – I had two on two different Christmasses. Probably not due to excitement, only nose-picking.

Whatever happened to those stick-puppety Rudolph and Frosty the Snowman specials on TV? When was the last time you saw the Grinch steal Christmas? I did. Last year — no, he's my father. (No, no, bad) Screw Christmas. Whatever happened to "The Twilight Zone" marathon on television? Now that was something worth waiting for. Damn the devilish TV executive puppeteers!

The holiday food thing I never understood. This sick, American practice in obesity and over-indulgence. Everyday is a virtual smorgasbord for most American consumers. So why not brand every day Christmas? Remember while you're eating your third helping of turkey butt stuffing or ingesting a healthy portion of cooked swine, that other people in the world don't know what a turkey, pig, Saint Nick or Christmas present looks like, let alone an American. Is it possible that other inhabitants of this earth don't know what garland, snow or stockings hung over a chimney look like? Damn, look at what these stockings we hang over them look like! Big. Really huge, for our enormous American pudgy feet. Usable as vomit bags for gluttonous sickos. I'm only jealous because I can't feed into the mass majority's sick fantasy myself. My stockings are the size of furry condoms, and the only edible turkeys and pigs I see pass me by every day as I wait for the bus. No matter how much coal I could jam up your fat asses, you still couldn't crap out any diamonds for me to live off. Shit, I'm sorry I'm swearing. Christmas dinner is about ingesting future food strength for the New Year's Eve drinking that's coming up.

For the first year in about twenty-three, I'm not going to visit my father. Yeah, for the first time, I'll actually be in my own domicile, enjoying the festivities of the festive. I usually end up taking a week-long respite from my work duties and bust my ass out to Texas to get nothing but a good remembrance of why my father and I don't spend the rest of the year with each other. We get along for a day or so, and then it all hits the fan. My father usually ends up paying for my ticket there. I come back home despondent and needing to pay my put-off bills. Mad and lonely. Rent's due, I'm broke, have nothing to show for the trip except more debt, more confusion and pictures in my head of an aging father and sister. So I'm staying here this year. No airports or bars, no writing in notebooks thousands of feet above ground. No writing about the difference in weather in different states. All by my lonesome, thank gods. Days and daze to myself, to maybe finish that screenplay, novel or monthly Skratch exorcism. Watch cartoons -the good ones! To trade presents with my cats underneath a beer pyramid. Ahhhhh, Christmas. Wonderful money leech.

Now to the new year, not that any of you will be reading this by then, according to the Bible prophets. It all starts in January. Prince, the artist formally known as "weirdo" will be polluting our eardrums for the next 365 days plus. The parakeets will be poopfully appreciating this piece of illegible crap by then. Chirp? Chirp? Garbage men wonder who the hell writes this crap. Greasy gloves and noisy trucks. In a year or so, we'll all be

dead, the clairvoyants says . . . I'm waiting, but please prolong my hellfired damnation, Mr. and Mrs. God, until the new "Star Wars" trilogy comes out. Then I'll join the rest of (in)humanity. Then I'll cross my arms and shit my pants. X amount of daze until 1999. One more year until all of this millenium crap is over. Maybe then you guys will be able to get some sleep, and I'll be able to also.

Rent's due, and I don't think God or Satan cares. 1999 will consist of the horrendous hordes of humanity stockpiling vast amounts of hamburgers for the coming apocalypse. I'm going to pull my three dollars out of the bank so that the greedy millenium bug can't touch my meager funds. Maybe if I'm lucky, the 2K bug will erase all of my electronically stored credit mistakes. Then I won't have to pay off the balance I owe to the Vampire Research Center. Can you even picture what 1999 will bring? Every single psycho/pervert/violent-ass cretin in the world will have a field day. You want to talk about murder, mass suicides, bombings and subway gassings? This is going to be a whacko public demonstration year, I can't even begin to imagine.

I'm trying too hard today to dredge up anything remotely important or entertaining out of my stupid and stagnant mind. I'm getting into bad habits. Before, I used to just send all of my regular crap to you. I'd retype something from one of my past notebooks or grab something from the typewritten glob of madness by my desk. No, I end up WRITING to you - for this magazine. Trying to be funny sometimes and not succeeding. I'll write about topics now. I'm pimping myself journalistically. I'm falling into the exact type of writing whoredom that I don't want to be part of, and I'm not even setting paid for it. I need money, money for my pockets, money for my mind. I'm broke, and my hand is, too. Writing never fixes it. You don't care, though, do you? You'll so to the mall tonight to set your boy or girlfriend some cute Christmas socks, or maybe you're getting ready for a punk show. By now your hair is bleached blond, and you're cursing the weather because tonight it's too cold for you to wear a wifebeater. You miss the beach, I miss feelings, any other than exhaustion or hate. I miss Anne. She makes me laugh, but she's gone now.

Today I sold my old "Star Wars" trilogy video set for beer money. My friend gave me a chain letter yesterday, but the holidays are here. Three of them in the last two months, and even if I don't feel like celebrating on my days off, and even if a person who would normally be rude to me at work decides to be jolly and wish me a merry whatever, hell - I'll take it. Because at least it's a temporary distraction from my life's mundanity. Maybe I'll get a Christmas card from a loved one. I'll try my hardest to drink more in the next month,s worth of celebrations and look forward to the coming year. Trying to kill my insides while visions of young Obi-wan and Anakim Skywalker joust in my head preventing it. The best present I ever got must have been myself, I'm better than the best of Furbys. So why do I at times feel like giving my presence back? I feel like Tori Amos. I need to drink more of my "Star Wars" bottles. All Skratch readers must send me action figures and books. That'll make my yule log crackle with warm, happy fire. Give me money for stamps. Send me your thoughts so I can feel smart and better about myself. Maybe I'll so to a bar tonight. That always makes me feel angry. Rubbing elbows with the mongrels of mankind - but it makes me feel better. Better when the reflection I see in the morning mirror is far more beautiful than the faces that await outside my bathroom.

On Christ/mas Satan/mass morning, I'll wake up early and sneak into my kitchen to see how many beers Santa Claus left me. Then I'll go slip back into bed and masturbate gleefully under the covers. New Year's Day, my head will hurt. Oh boy, thank you uh uh huuuhhi . . . ahhh-hh! Stick a fork in me. I'm Kevynn Malone.

in the that have analy violents analy violents analy violents analy violents analy successful succe When I started going to shows record collection consisted of the "Grease" soundtrack, Newton John's Olivia "Physical" album, Duran Duran "Rio." Michael Jackson "Thriller," Gary Numan "Pleasure Principal," and every Prince album. I also had the Cult, Cyndi Lauper, Madonna, WHAM!, the Cars, and the GoGo's. Then I got into the Red Hot Chili Peppers and considered myself a revolutionary. In 8th grade I purchased The Dead Milkmen's "Big Lizard in my Backyard." When I went to go see them on the Beezelbubba tour at the Cameo Theater, accompanied by my mom, a skater guy that went to my junior high school was wearing a Descendents shirt so the next day I bought "I Don't Want to Grow Up." Gradually I found out about 7 Seconds and the Damned as I was hanging out with older kids, one even had a driver's license. By the time I started high school I was involved in the local scene and picked the brain of anyone who gave me the chance to. And those people were saints since I was a little dork with a voracious appetite for music and I didn't know when to stop before driving those poor souls insane. I still am unsure in a lot of cases but I don't know how I made it through my teenage years without getting treated like crap by the people I harassed to find out who was in which band when. And who toured with them with that line up. And what color ink was on the shirts from that tour. See how annoying that is?

I still have tons of questions about music and bands and I'm sure I always will. No one can know everything and no one should pretend to. When I started to accumulate a little knowledge, I realized just how very nothing I knew. I can remember being totally intimidated by the older kids who could compare any song to bands I didn't know existed. They knew I hadn't seen Minor Threat, so what? They knew I didn't have first pressings of every Dischord and SST/Cruz release and they didn't care. I was a 14 year old kid with a \$5 a week allowance which was spent on elther getting into shows or gas money. I never felt the need to be old school because I wasn't old and I knew that everyone knew I had a lot to learn.

I was lucky to have older friends who didn't feel threatened by youth. They let me borrow their records and zines and never rolled their eyes at the many (let me stress MANY) clueless questions I would ask. I never heard them snickering behind my back while quoting something I said. They never saw anything wrong with a kid knowing and loving something that they loved too.

That feeling of sharing the message and music has stuck with me. I love seeing a kid's face when he walks into his first show; you can always tell. I always look to the back of the room trying to find parents keeping a watchful eye on their baby. Nothing makes me happier than seeing open-minded parents at a show; having caring parents is the best thing anyone can ask for. And hopefully their

child will make some friends who value his good heart and mind rather than the contents of his record collection and who he's seen live. And hopefully the parent in the back of the room will find a nice kid to ask why kids have X's on their hands or why he is an

anarchist or why everyone looks so violent when they dance. Maybe for once those questions will be answered with a smile and a

pogoing? How can you be a non-conformist when you look like everyone else?

Sorry, that almost turned into a rant. The point of this whole discourse is that I was lucky to have guidance. I had role-models in the scene who made sure I stayed a good kid. I definitely went through my ugly clothes and hair phase but they were still my friends when I was done with it. A decade has gone by and though many may argue I'm still having fashion problems, I feel an obligation to the younger kids. If this is a hardcore family, we may need counseling soon. The older kids are acting like ancient wise ones rather than big brothers and big sisters. And the newer kids are in this big hurry to grow up and earn scene points by making "friends" (i.e. kissing ass) with scenesters instead of just enjoying music and talking to the kid who is bobbing his head leaning against the wall, I'm never going to laugh because someone hadn't heard of someone else, or doesn't know the lyrics to my favorite song. None of that matters. You aren't cooler because you are in a band or friends with someone in a band. You are cool when people trust you and smile when they see you. The way to keep our scene strong is to share. Share the experience of seeing bands live, share your zines and records and knowledge and love of what the scene means to you. Don't only invest your money in records. Invest your time and energy in the kids; make a mix tape, do a zine and share your interests. Find the little local record store and talk to the guy at the counter and ask him what new bands he likes, and about local bands. Every band is a local band somewhere. It's ok not to know everything. And it's ok to be a kid. The only thing I have a problem with is when you forget why you started doing something. One of my favorite records contains the line "You say we should let go so how come you still hang out?" That song ("Out of Touch" by 7 Seconds) is chanted with fervor whenever performed by an audience filled with the same people who complain about how much the scene sucks compared to back in the day. Leave the scene before you turn into the abusive adult that doesn't have the time to help his kids with their homework.

Good luck finding the positive attitudes and enthusiasm I find here anywhere else. Too bad for you. Susan Wills, Punk Uprisings, POB 6771,

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two from the machine by eric migliaccio

today, She is 23, and i am still 22, and push tug whisper scream lick bite let go and die try as i may, i will never catch up with Her-- She smiles and blows sweetly-- all of the candles listen and die-- 23-- She sighs and says, "well, now, i guess it must be official...i'll never be a child prodigy."--

things go and you never get them back--

we both write-- "it gets me excited," She says-- "the way the words tumble out...the rhythm and the flow," She says-- Her eyes search mine, "you know, i only masturbate when i write," She says-- and i respond, "that's the only time i don't masturbate," and i'm not joking--

She writes stories about meek ladies with strange sexual fetishes who collect fingernail clippings, and about a rampant subculture of women who scrawl desperate lesbian messages to each other on the walls of bathroom stalls-- i write stories about Her-- there are enough words in Her bony arms, Her ventriloquial hands, Her skin, to justify the loss of all the world's trees--

and "boo, hiss" She says to this—— She's an environmentalist—and She is a liberal, a feminist, a social activist, a vegetarian (which for Her means no eggs, no milk, nothing animal related; She makes incredible chocolate chip cookies from bananas, fruit juice, and carob chips)—— She is half mexican, half english—— She votes in every election—— She is a graduate student, an intellectual, a writer, a philosopher, a painter, an actress, a horrible speller—— She has been proposed to twice——

i like to sit in my room and watch the dust float around in the afternoon sun--

there is a whole, noble, struggling world in the swirling dust-i pound on my bed and send an army of particles up to my sun-drenched
window-- "look," i point it out to Her, "they're just like people.
some of the little dust motes are rising, some are falling, but most
of them are just flying sideways. and look, they never quite touch
each other. they get close, and then some invisible breeze comes along
and blows them in opposite directions."-- She smiles and absentmindedly plucks a yellowing, long-ago clipped fingernail out from
between the shaggy blades of my carpet-- gently, She places it in
Her left pocket--

for our one week anniversary, She gives me a copy of john fante's ask the dust, and a can of pledge ("it's not healthy for you to be breathing in all this crap," She explains)— She hands me the book and says, "this is my favorite. it's so bleak and beautiful. oh, and the title fits you."— but, "why bleak?" i ask. "why do You have to love bleakness, too? why does beautiful smart angel You have to understand 'bleak'? is no one exempt?"— She shakes Her head, "no, my young friend, not even me..."—

and i don't want to understand, but i do--

so i dive into Her fante; i slip into arturo bandini's desperate and pale italian skin; together we fall for the self-hating mexican lovely camilla-- i turn to Her-- "this is beautiful," i say-- but i shake my head, "this isn't us, though. we're not like this. You're not camilla."-- She shrugs, "i know. it's just a book. don't read into it so much."-- but it's Her favorite, and that has to mean something.--

and cross-legged She sits while reading one of my stories-- i can hear Her smile at each digression-- She writes comments right onto the page in gorgeous, looping script-- next to Her favorite anecdotes She writes, "wonderful antedote"-- i don't correct Her-- each little, tiny flaw adds to Her rightness and brings Her closer to me--

i run my thumbpad over the spanish tilde-shaped scar that squiggles under Her left eye and accents Her cheekbone-- it's a tiny, electric-white snaky curve like you'd see around the walls of a lit pool at night-- "toboggan mishap," She explains-- "when i was a kid, i was accident prone," She says, "and after each little cut or scrape my mother would say, 'now, you really must be more careful, honey. one more scar and you'll never be miss america."-- "how horrible. and i bet you never even wanted to be miss america."-- "fuck no! but she wanted me to," She says. "you see, i was supposed to be all delicate and proper and, you know, girl-like, but by the time i was 11, i was making little knife-slices in my arms just to show her the scars."-- "pretty damn bleak."-- "yep," She whispers, "big-time bleak."--

and we lie here for hours, naked, stuck together, perfect-- "no matter what happens," She says, "this is a good moment...i love this moment."--

and moments mean everything to Her-- She's trying to wean me off of lifetimes-- She spends hours expounding the virtues of the "temporary success"-- but i'm not sure if i'm convinced--

it's my hand She grips so tightly-- it's my name She whispers as She breathes-- it's me She drags along behind Her-- if not for these undeniables, i would think that She doesn't know i'm here at all-- Her whole body is vibrating-- "oh, this is beautiful...i love this," She says-- Her free hand punctuates each syllable with a wild, unguarded gesture-- even from behind, She glows--

everything about the rialto is ornate, intricate-- its movie screen is set deep back into a raised platform-- two-story balconies stand on either side of the stage, ready for their juliets-- the chiseled head of a gargoyle watches over the audience from behind a pair of gleaming, rubied eyes-- the curtains are heavy red antiques--

She swoops down the aisle with me in tow and then lets go as She scales the rail that separates the audience from the stage-- i follow Her, wondering if the few early arrivals in the theater are watching us from their seats-- "i miss this so much," She laments, Her hands caressing the cracked wood of the stage, "i've got to get back to acting soon."-- She looks back at me-- Her face is flushed, Her eyes are radiating, Her hands are working at the wood-- i feel bent in half, my shoulders slumped, my arms awkward and useless at my sides-- She turns to face me-- for a second it's as if She doesn't recognize me-- then that quickly changes and i feel i've misinterpreted and then there is a moment where i know that i can kiss Her-- She takes my hand-- we go behind an exit curtain--

eventually the movie rolls-- "like water for chocolate"-- She listens while i read, my reactions always seeming to come a split-second after Hers--

after the movie, She points out a rectangular piece of latticed iron grating which hangs directly above the center of the stage-- "do you know what that is?" She asks-- "nope."-- "that's where god

comes down from to save the day," She says-- "oh, wait, i know this one. 'deuce ex machina', 'god from the machine'," i say, "you know, i love those forced endings."-- "who doesn't? oh, except it's 'deus ex machina', dear," She corrects me with a smirk-- "what did i say?"-- "you said, 'deuce'. that would be like, 'two from the machine'."-- "but i like that better," i say-- "you would," She laughs, but then adds, "i'll admit, it does have a certain appeal, though."--

it's sunset as we leave the show-- we drive east towards my house-- we leave the dying sun behind us--

in the passenger seat She sits, all birthday smiles and affection-- i've caught up with Her-- if only for the moment--

POP CULTURE DEVOURED:

Random shit that that you'll never get to see by David Turbow

- 1/ "The Watersportsboy"- Adam Sandler's first gay porno
- 2. "Meat Joe Black"- Brad Pitt's first porno
- 3. "I Still Could Care Less What You Did Last Summer:3"- All sequeled out.
- 4. "Enema of the State"- Gene Hackman gets a thorough cleansing from Will Smith.
- 5. Best Album of 1999:"Never Mind the Spice Girls, Here's the Dixie Chicks".
- 6. American Music Award Party Hit Nominee: The Artist Formerly Known as the Fresh Prince of Egypt singing "1999"
- 7. "Sealing Dion"- The movie sequel to "Boxing Helena" starring Tori
- 8. Backstreet Boys star in their first gay porn- "Takin' It Backside"
- 9. "Y2K"- A movie starring Bruce Willis about a fat aging computer nerd desperately trying to save the world from a potentially disastrous millenial computer crisis. Liv Tyler plays his teen slut daughter who keeps posting nude photos of her self on the web. Soundtrack by Aerosmith. Who else?

 10. LeAnn Rimes marries Busta Rhymes. They decide to name their love child "Heythat".

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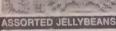




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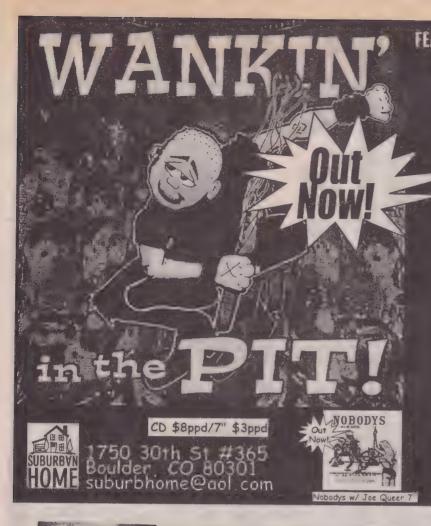
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Voodoo Glow Skulls interview by Ty Robinson

What is there that you don't already know about the Voodoo Glow Skulis? Probably not much. They've been around forever and have seen and done it all. Within the last few years they have become major players on the national punk circuit. Through it all they have managed to retain their humility and a sense of themselves. never loosing sight of why they started the band in the first place; to have fun. I caught up with Eddie and Frank Casillas recently as they kicked off another in their long line of tours. Here's how it went .:

Skratch- So tell me how your new album "The Band Geek Mafia" is different from your other three?

southern California with horns and not really known for, but it's still got

he's a pro. He knows what he's doing. We liked the sound of the Reel Big Fish record, especially the horns, so we thought it would be cool to work with him and see what kind of sound he could give us. As far as the songs go. I think we just wrote better songs this year, they're all well structured.

Skratch- I noticed that you guys



TOOLOG GIOR SKULLS



Frank- I think we've matured a lot as a band. The music and the song writing and the production is a lot better. We used someone who was familiar with our style of music. John Avila form Omgo Boingo.

Eddie- It was cool to work with a fresh face. John comes from the same style of playing as us, a big band from more effects than you ever had before like t a theramin and a lot of reverb in some of the vocals. Was that the kind of thing he brought to the table?

Frank- Yeah, before we weren't really open to a lot of outside ideas. In the past we've been pretty straight forward, maybe used a bit or organ here and there, but he made us look at recording in a different way. He told us not to be afraid to look at other ideas.

Skratch- So is it hard to have an outside person come in say you should do this or that?

Frank- At first it was, cause like I said we're not used to that.....

Eddie- It's hard for a band like us. cause we've been doing things our way for so long and we've never let an outside person in and this time

we just said okay lets just use some of your ideas and trust it and see where you can take it. And it seemed to work. he brought a lot of stuff out of us. like Frank sang a lot more on this album. he help bring that out of him, to be a bit more melodic in places.

Frank- Yeah, there's a bit of harmonizing and stuff in places, thing that we're

the same edge. We're really stoked on it. maybe heading in a little different direction.

Skratch- So will you next record be on Epitaph?

Frank-It's hard to tell right now. I mean this record just came out. We have the option to go t another label if we want. not that we're not happy with Epitaph. it's just that you don't know what's going to happen in the future.

Skratch- What happened to Cheap Guy? (For those who don't know, Cheap Guy was the record store they used to own and run shows out of.)

Frank- We closed it cause the interest wasn't as high as we thought it would be. We wanted to keep it at a certain level and in order to survive as a business you've gotta have the money to compete with the Mad Platter and places like that. We just didn't have the money and the know how to keep it going.

Eddie- Frank and eye would be gone on tour for like the whole year and we had friends who would watch it, but it just worked better when we were there. so we decided to close it before it became a big loss.

Frank- But for 5 years it was a lot of fun.

Skratch- So, you're married right? (to Frank)

Frank- Yeah. I'm married, so is Jerry our drummer and George is too.

Skratch- Do you have any kids?

Frank- Yeah. I have one on the way and I have four year old.

Skratch- So do you find that it's harder to get out and tour now, having to leave you family all the time?

Frank- Yeah, it's tough. I mean, right when you start getting attached, it's time to go. But, their used to it. I'm used to it. It's tough, but this is what I do.

Skratch- Why do you think that of all the Voodoo songs. Fat Randy has been the one that really caught on and got some more attention for you?

Eddie- I think it just stood out the most as like, being the funnest on that record. People just seemed to get into that one I guess. I mean I don't even know why, but that's the one we chose and it started getting played on the radio.

Skratch- So you guys chose that as a single?

Frank- It was us and Mr. Brett.

Eddie- Yeah, he thought it was catchy and had a good chorus.

Skratch- On sort of that same token, is it hard for you guys, being a nationally known act, who can tour all over and draw well where ever you go, but at the same time the next level is to be played on the radio and on MTV and that seems to be eluding you some what. Is it frustrating to be in that position?

Eddie- Yeah, I mean we started this band 10 years ago and we didn't think about being played on the radio or singles or any of that, we just thought it would be fun to play some gigs and the all of the sudden we were thrust into that because of KROQ and because of MTV. So it's really frustrating in that. the next year people expect the same thing from you and that's not what we're about. It's like if you don't get back to that point than you've failed because your not on the radio. We just wanted to be a real band and to stick around for a long time and we've learned how the music business works

and how to please ourselves and the rest will just fall into place. If it's meant to be that we're on the radio or playing big clubs and stadiums, which we've done, we've played a lot of places I thought we never would get to, then that's fine. But at this point we know what it's all about and it's tough, but it's the only thing I've ever done and still the only thing I ever want to do.

Skratch- Do you guys plan to record anymore of your albums in Spanish? Eddie- It was just something we did for the *Firme* album. We didn't want to make it like a tradition. It was a good thing, but I think the next step is to

make it like a tradition. It was a good thing, but I think the next step is to write a complete Spanish album, one that was meant only to be in Spanish. It was meant to happen this year, but we just don't have time.

Skratch- So what's your favorite Spanish slang word?

Frank- (very clear and pronounced)
Panocha!

I'm sure I fucked up the spelling to that one. Sorry, Frank.

Skratch- Who writes most of the lyrics to your songs?

Frank-I do most of it. Eddie comes up with ideas too.

Eddie- It seems like with the first two albums I did most of the writing, but with the last two Frank has kind of taken over.

Skratch- Is it the kind of thing where you're singing them, the it's something you have to feel more?

Frank- Yeah.

Eddie- Sometimes he'll write the song and I'll come up with the name just cause it sounds cool, or I'll think of one line and it will become a song. it's collaboration, but he writes most of the verses and stuff.

Skratch- I notice that you tend to write about like high school and adolescence a lot. What were you guys like in high school? is it safe to say that you weren't the big men on campus?

Eddie-It's kind of like we're still in high school even thought we're 10 years past. It's kind of weird that we don't feel any different. like we should be writing about having kids and getting older.

Frank-I spend all my life play in front of like 16 and 17 year olds. I mean, I'm 31 it's like I see some if my friends and

they're like working jobs and have wives that won't let them go out (at this point someone in the background began screaming like a banshee and a good 10 seconds of the tape is inaudible)

Skratch- Is everything okay back there?

Eddie- See? That's a perfect example of what goes on with our band. That guy's probably about 29 years old.

Skratch- (as the screaming continues)
Are there any bands that you guys
have looked up to over the years that
you haven't had a chance to play with?
Eddie- The Red Hot Chili Peppers.
They were a big influence for us. A lot
of big bands that are in the mainstream, like Rage Against the Machine
I like them a lot and Fishbone, I've
always loved them. I'd say those are
the top three.

Skratch- Did Broadie really crash a big black Cadillac? (a line taken from the song "Broadie Johnson weekend") Eddie- Yeah.

Frank-Yep, that's a true story. Broadie Johnson was coming home from a show and he had a big black Caddie and was turning into his street and he kept turning and made like a U-turn into his neighbors back yard and he drove right through it. And then he tried to drive away with four popped tires. And the cops busted him with the helicopter and the whole nine yards. So Broadie Johnson, he's, he's

Eddie- He's an enigma.

Skratch- Now here's the big one, Lask everyone I interview this......can you name all five New Kids On the Block?

Jerry -(he had come over for the last few minutes) I can't name one.

They gave it their best shot but couldn't do it, although they managed to name two of them. There it is. I peek into the inner working of the voodoo Glow Skulls. Both Frank and Eddie, and Jerry while he was there were very cool guys and treated me with respect. It meant a lot coming from them, a band that has meant so much to me over the years. Thanks, Voodoo. Go buy their new album if you haven't already. It really is their best one yet.



push to the radio you go right ahead. And they picked that one, and that's one of our favorites, so it was good.

Joe) Why didn't you play it at the (Hollywood) Palladium show?

Aaron) Well, we were playing, and everyone kept chanting, Take On Me, so I was like, oh, I am going to save Take On Me till the end, we'll do it for the anchor, you know. This is our big. rock and roll show, there's gonna be an anchor right, right, and then we'll play The Set Up, right before that. So, we walked off stage, and everybody left, because I guess all they care

about is hearing, "Sell Out."

Vince If leggi (Heal Big Fish's mininger). That's not the way it happened

Aaron) it you want the real story ask Vince there's Vince right now, tell him the real story

Vince, what's the real story?

Vince) The general manager of the Palladium
was freaking out he says, (in some crazy Vietnamese accent), 'the doe must drop, (the show must stop), the doe must drop (the show must step!), you go over tirty (thirty) minutes. The doe must drop (the show must stop), now,

Vince) (Still in the crazy Vietnamese accent) 'OK, ok, this is crazy, I had Alanis Morsett, in hear last week, no problem, you guys loss (lots) of problems. OK, You stop now, you guys dick to me

Aaron) I gotta problem with that fuckin' place, that's the worst sounding, fuckin' run by nazi's. luckin', fuck the Palladium, with it's fuckin' stuluckin' fuck the Palladium, with it's fuckin' stu-Aaron). We tiidn't.

pid security, and fuckin' asshole staff, and fuck-Vince). We like the Galaxy, it's My Superhero
in'shitty policies and fuckin' rules, and bad, who hates The Galaxy.

a little tail, and like a red zipped up sweatshirt, and he was going nuts. Ever since then he's been jumping around on stage, and just talking into his mic and just going crazy, everywhere, and he's having a good time. He says, that he's been paying attention to my lyrics a lot, and, I guess their all about, "hey fuck you,"- I don't know how my lyrics could change anyone's life, I don't really believe him. But, hey I guess it means something to him, so hey, it's good, Grant's really coming out of his shell.

Joe) Why did you guys decide to put, "In the Pit, " on this new album?

Aavan) Bessues they wouldn't let us, put it on the last album, for some dumb reason, so we put it on this one. Just for our own, what do you

Joe) I love that song. Anyhow, do you think you'll ever bring back, "Spin The Globe" (a great song that's really old)?

Aaron) II will be the secret track on Everything.

Sucks when we re-release that. Were pained to

Sucks, when we re-release that. Were going to re-release all of our old demo tapes someday, in

Joe) Who came up with, the new album title, Why Do They Rock So Hard?

Aaron) I don't know, somebody in the band Reel Big Fish, one of us, we just kind of decid-

you gave me a ride home from the Galaxy? Aaron) Yeah, I remember you.

Joe) Why did you guys decide to shoot the video at the Galaxy?

came back and he was wearing devil horns and with Carla, where we had to buy her dinner and get her into all of our shows forever.

Joe) How did it feel to play with Madness? Aaron) It felt good, it was awesome, we love Madness. Now I get to play with Madness, the Specials, the Selector and Dave Wakeling from English Beat, so it's like my four favorite ska bands of the Eighty's.

Joe) So, now, how does it feel to be a rockstar?

Aaron) I don't know, I thought that I would know, or find out, but I guess I'll always feel like me. So, I won't ever know how it feels to be a rock star, I quess I'll always feel like a dork I know what it feels like to be a dork, ask me that one, maybe some day III find out.

Joe) Where do you see RBF in the future?

Aaron) Were gorne. I den't know, kim gonna keep doing it, because it's all I can do, I can't really start a side project because I'll write the same kinds of songs. Maybe The Scholars will come back, we will probably be playing a CD release show, because our CD's coming out (on logge species).

Joe) Do you have any last words?

Aaron) Like, shout out's? Shout out to the Killingtons, My Superhero, Karas Flowers, and the Teen Heroes.

Joe) Anything else?

Aaron). I don't make the rules I just fuck you.

That's it. Go out to your favorite independent record store, and get the new album, by Reet Big Fish, "Why Do They Rock So Hard", and find out why they truly do, rock so hard.





tuned into Channel

by James Mayhem photos by Jean Spencer

In a time where bands aspire to be the next big punk band or the next big ska thing to break out of the Orange County music scene emerges a band like Channel Six. This is a band that isn't afraid to cross musical boundaries and mix it up to create a new and interesting blend of music which transpires in to a unique sound that is their own.

Encompassing flavors from the pool of music as diverse as surf, hip-hop, reggae, and a tinge of ska. Channel Six manages to roll these sounds into something that can stand on it's own and does. After having tracks featured on both the "Punk Vs. Ska" and "Hey Brother 2" compilations from Vegas Records, they were signed to Microcosm Records where the band has released their first full length album titled "Troubled Times."

I recently had a chance to talk to the guys from Eric: Three years this Channel Six backstage after

their CD release party at The Barn at U.C. Bill: Yeah, three years. Riverside.

Gary: It's got a lot of heart Bill: It took a long time to put it together.

Mayhem: How long did you guys spend working. Mayhem: I know you guys don't like to be labeled

Bill: Almost a year.. month by month we put in a few hours here and there and we finished it.

Eric: And then we did them over and over till it was of all kinds of stuff. There's surf, reggae, a lot of

Mayhem: How did you guys end up hooking up . Bill: I think there's a conscious hip-hop vibe on with Microcosm Records?

Josh: The Decapitones!

Bill: The Decapitones, they hooked us up! We were jealous that they got an album deal and they hooked us up with Micro E. He came out to a couple of shows. He liked us and signed us. It was

Mayhem: I was listening to the album and the one thing that really caught my attention was you cover of Bad Religion's "American Jesus". What brought you to do that cover?

Eric: I have no idea! I don't even listen to Bad that it changes every few months or so it seems. I Religion!

Bill: No, back in the days when we were all like in eighth grade we were like 'Shit! That's a nice what I've been listening to!" song!" We thought well we're a band, let's put it

together and we did.

It's a great Mayhem: cover. So how long have you guys been together as a band?

past September.

Mayhem: How did you

and you can pick all these different flavors of quys hook things. So now that the album up? is out, the release party is done, what next? Uh.

> really Josh: I have no idea! Bill: Keep playing! hard to explain real-

Joe: Yeah, get the vibe out there and play some ly See I met fun shows. Definitely!

Bill Gary: Break up!!!

some techno music!

classify your sound as?

Joe's part with the drums.

you just wanna chomp it!

RIGHT!

Joe: Thanks

input and that's what the output is!

saw a crowd digging on a drum solo.

Greg: Mortal Kombat was our first song ever!

as solely a ska band. What exactly would you guys

Joe: Um. porno punk? I don't know! It's a mixture

stuff. Everybody comes in with their own musical

Mayhem: Let me say by the way, that drum solo-

fucking amazing! I can't remember the last time I

Channel Six: WHOOOOOO! FUCK YEAH! ALL

Mayhem: O.K., so obviously hip-hop, what else?

Josh: It's just a good summer vibe music. It's Bar-

B-Que music!! It's like a nice, juicy hamburger.

Bill: One of the funny things about our sound is

think that's how we get such a variety. Someone

comes in and is all. "Oh man! You gotta come hear

Mayhem:

Bitely

comes through

album.

You lis-

ten to the album

整.

in

defi-

the

Mayhem: Yeah, break up, get back together, make

a lot of money right? Channel Six: Yeah!

Mayhem: Is there anything you want someone to know about the band that hasn't heard of you yet. hasn't seen you, hasn't heard your sound? What would you like them to know before they sit down to listen to the CD or come see you live?

Bill: It's pretty much about coming together and having a real damn good time, because we all came from different places and we came together and made this thing, made some really good music and had a good time doing it!

Eric: That's what it's all about right there!

Joe: A positive vibe!

Bill: If you're gonna listen to the CD, just sit down. kick back, and open your mind!

Mayhem: Let me say the CD is great, the show was awesome. I wish you guys the best and I'm sure we'll be hearing more from you guys in the time to come! Thanks for your time guys! Channel Six: Thanks man!

Bill: Yeah, we appreciate it!

Eric it's

Channel Six is Josh Hoover (Vocals). Greg Burns (Guitar), Gary Tucker (Guitar), Enc Henninger (Bass), Joevaine Lopez (Drums). Bill Adams (Trumpet), Danny Kasem (Trumpet). Shane McCoy (Saxophone)

Mayhem: Here we are in the lovely and luxurious parking lot behind the Barn at U.C. Riverside and I'm here with Channel Six. They just played their CD release party and let me start out by saying that you guys played an awesome show and congrats on the release of the new CD. Channel Six: Thanks!

Mayhem: Tell me a bit about "Troubled Times". This is your first full-length album, correct? Bill: Yeah, it's our first full length CD

Eric: It's got fourteen tracks!

Josh: Yeah, fourteen really incredible good tracks.

while back in Mexico.

Bill: I stepped on Eric, I got out of bed and I stepped on him! I swear to God! That's how I met him!

Gary: I lived in T.J. for about six years and I was walking down the street and I ran into Eric smacking Bill on the ass!

Bill: Seriously, friends of friends of friends kind of got us all together.

Mayhem: So after you guys all met and decided. 'Hey! O.K., let's start a band!' how long after that did you guys start playing shows and working on the demo?

Eric: We got our first show after about a month or so. Actually, we didn't even get to play. Then we picked up Danny Kasem and Shane McCoy. Then we played in Bill's backyard, we opened up with



BY MEL TORMENT

That Welt should have its CD release party at Linda's Doll Hut Road House was only appropriate. This is a band born in Sacramento, transplanted to OC, but calls the town in which they going to play next, home. Kenny, the drummer who was also to pull a double shift that night by playing with the Codependents, works at an RV rental lot. Figures. Hard working, driven, soulful Americana blue collar punk rock with that meaty, old school appeal. "Broken Down", the latest release from Welt, captures some of the restless pain of lives caught up in this traveling show sometimes known as rock and roll. As long as we had them in OC for more than two weeks, the editors insisted that we interview them to find out what we could. So we did.

Jason:well, fuck everyone else if they're not here. I'm in recovery and I'm trying...not to

Skratch: Yea, um why don't we start off by you telling us who is in the band and what they play.

Jason: Well there's Jeff Lewis on Guitar, Kenny Castro plays drums, Chris Schwartzlander on Guitar... Skratch: How do you spell that?

Jeff: Even we don't know.

Skratch: Hippie Chris.... Jason: I guess he got that

name before I knew him so I don't know.

Mike: He's punker Chris now. Jason: Yea, whatever. I play bass and sing

Skratch: So there's four of you... Jason: Yea, four and our official fifth member, Mike Cooper, no relation.

Skratch: How long have you guys been together as a band?

Jason: Welt has been going for a little bit over six years...going on seven this fall, originally started in Sacramento...

Skratch: I was going to say...who hails from Sacramento...

Jason: That was me and Jeff the other guitarist. We started the band and had some other guys in the band, and when they split we moved down here and got two more

Skratch: How long down here?

Jason: We moved down here a year ago may.

Skratch: Here to stay?

Jason:Aaahhh, I don't know. I like it here a lot. I don't know if I'll be in the same place forever, but that's just how I am.

Skratch: What's it like in Sacramento?

Jason: Very hot...very hot in the summertime and very fucking cold in the winter...

(Jeff comes strolling up) Jeff: What's up?

Skratch: Hey, Mel from Skratch.

Jeff: Jeff from Welt.

Skratch: So you two guys are the original Sacramento delta punk rock kings.... listened to the disc and all I could hear is delta rock...

Jason: Delta rock? You mean Welta rock!

Skratch: So six years together...is this is your first full length?

Jason: Third.

Skratch: Third? (stumbling badly) But you're first for a label Jeff: Uhhh no, our third on Dr. Dream records.....

Skratch: Your third...see I told you I was fucking ignorant.....

Jason: Yea, a couple of seven inches and two other full lengths (Better Days-1995 & Kicked in the Teeth-1996)...and that's about it.

Jeff: Hey! Here comes Chris...

(someone): Shit! Chris: Hi....

Skratch: Here comes Chris. Chris, how did you ever get dubbed with "Hippy Chris"

Chris: Oh, just because I love hippies...and 1, and 1 ...

Jason: He's a humanitarian...

Chris:and I'm a recovering asshole.

Jeff: You're not in recovery!

Chris: Hey, I'm in recovery and I'm trying...not to hate everybody, okay?

Skratch: That's good, man. Just take it one minuet at a time.

Jason: That's all he can do.

hate everybody, okay?"

Chris:....yea, just one jackass at a fucking time. (everyone laughing)....oh noo, noo...see I come back to my home town today...walk down the street, and much to

my dismay there are all these people

who....

Skratch: Still hate you?

Chris: Yes.

Skratch: Despite you're new

band,...

Chris: ohhhh, I don't really care. People talk shit no matter what.

Skratch: Well, the disc is fucking solid, so from that viewpoint it makes for a bold, positive career move...

Jason: Yea, it's finally out on vinyl too. Our first full length on vinyl.

Skratch: How many did you press?

Jeff: Hmmm. Not sure

Jason: A couple thousand maybe. Its not a huge seller from a label standpoint, but when

Stuff about surviving and overcoming. Stuff like that. we play live people still ask for the vinyl. You gotta have

the vinyl.

"It's my stress reliever. Writing songs.

Skratch: You guys just got off the road.

Jason: Today. Yea we were on tour for a month with the Voodoo Glow Skulls.

Skratch: Yea, I think you guys were just behind us on the Warped Tour... Jeff:They jumped off the tour after a couple of weeks and we hooked up with them in New London Connecticut, and circled through the south and back across, though to San Francisco. We toured with the Independents was on the whole tour, opening up every night.

Skratch: How many dates did you do?

Jeff: Nineteen?

Mike: Twenty shows in twenty-two days....Damn!

Jason: Was that it?

Skratch: And did Kenny hook you guys up with a motorhome?

All: Fuck yea!

Skratch: How big? Jason: Huh?

Skratch: How big? How many foot?

Jason: Sixty footer! A double decker! Jeff: No, a sixteen-foot double decker!

Jason: We drove behind an old VW bus with a trailer the whole time...

Jeff: Yea, a bunch of Grateful Dead guys, the whole time.

Skratch: Did you hit him? Jeff: No, Chris hit an awning.

Chris: Yea, I hit an awning.

Skratch: Good Man!

Jason: ..Yea, we would have gotten a brand new motorhome for the final few days of the tour, I think we had Hollywood, Ventura and San Francisco, cause the old one was reeking and stinking of like five guys living in one small area....

Skratch: Oh maan, tell me you didn't shit in that thing.

ALL: Oh yea! (Everyone begins to extol their use of the on board shitter)

Jason: Sure! But wait...hold on...wait, shut up everyone...so we would have had a brand new motorhome for the Ventura and SF shows if this guy (points at Chris) hadn't crashed into the awning and thus preventing us from turning it in, and making us have to fix it our selves.

Skratch: Fuck yea! So anyway, I really dug the disc (Broken Down). I hear a lot of old school guitars, a lot of passion....what fuels Welt?

Jason: We just write songs, you know? I'm the main songwriter and I write what comes out ...

Jeff: Daily frustrations

Jason: We just write songs, you know? I'm the main songwriter and I write what comes out. It's my stress reliever. Writing songs. Stuff about surviving and overcoming. Stuff like that.

Mike: You guys are really influence d by a lot of older bands...

Jason: Yea, a lot of like old OC bands, you know?

Skratch: So you guys recorded at the Blasting Room in Colorado, right?

Jason: Yea, with Bill and Stephan from the Decendents. It was awesome...

Jeff: We got to drive Bills car, sleep at his house. Jason wore his underwear.

Jason: For inspiration. It made us play better just having the spirit of Bill. You don't know Bill until you know his ass, really. That's why they call it the Blasting room.

Jeff: Really, those guys kicked ass recording wise. They really knew what was up.

Skratch: Those guys were all hands on...

Jason: Yep, 24 hours a day. Its and insane work schedule but they get things done, they get results and get things done. They pushed us hard on whatever we were working on. We lay down scratch tracks, and drum tracks, and we being doing vocals at 4 am and by 5 in the morning they'd be mixing down. It was unorthodox, but we got the results.

Skratch: How long did it take to do the album?

Jason: Two weeks. We were working around the clock, laying you guys recorded at the Blasting Room in Colorado, right?

Skratch: Well it really showed on the album. The mix is great, the guitar tones were great, good drum tones, good separation. Broken Down has a really good vibe to it. Jason: Thanks a lot. We finally got what we've wanted, we've always been a live band, that's what we're about and we've always wanted our albums to sound like we sound like live. And, we finally got that. You can hear two Les Pauls and two Marshalls. That's what we were going for, and that's what we got. We're happy.

Skratch: So now your back from touring in support of this.... Jeff: Yea, back where we started, at Linda's Doll Hut.

Skratch: I noticed you shot your publicity photo here.

Jason: Yea, it was pretty funny how that worked out. The guy who runs our practice place didn't show. We had our photographer down there and we didn't know what we were going to do, so out of the blue I made a call to the Hut and said hey we need a place to set up and play a few songs so we could shoot some photos and they said come on down. Our friends showed up, we drank some beers and did an impromptu show.

Skratch: And it looks like Dr. Dream is doing a helluva job. They got Posters in all the stores, they said street date was to be July 25, and fuckin' it looks like its everywhere.

Jason: Yea, they're doing a good job. Things have stepped up a hundred percent and they're really doing a good job. They've always been very good to us, but they've really done a good job for us. They're really good guys,

Skratch: So are you guys going to hang out and catch your breath or are you back on the road again?

Jeff: Back on the road full force.

Jason: We're going to play the CMJ festival in New York in October, and hopefully try to hook up a tour on the way back. So we'll be back out in September.

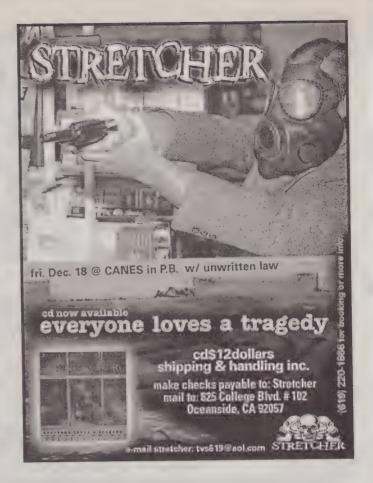
Skratch: You guys are fucking road warriors.

Jason: Love it.

Jeff: That's what being in a band is all about! If you're in a band you hit the road and play music. We would have gotten a brand new motorhome for the final few days of the tour, I think recording done? Have you selected a name yet?

Mario: All the recording is done, we doing the mastering, and the artwork is being done. We haven't selected a name yet....

Mike: ...and we're playing around as much as we can in the meantime.





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Skratch: Thanks guys, great album and we'll see you at the next show..

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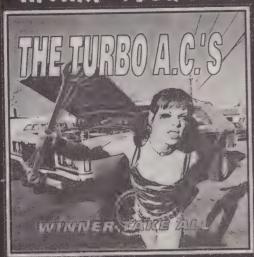
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pious records

Longfellow

is a punk band from Placentia. They have recently completed their second album, although it's their first on the awesome independent punk rock label, Kung Fu records. Longfellow consists of Darren Revnolds. Tom Schmitt, Tony Warner, Mike Doherty, and Andy Burris. Longfellow has been plugging around Orange County for about four years now, creating an insanely unique style of punk, blending in hard, fast, mellow punk, and a strong central rock influence, focusing on emo. The new album, "And So On..." continues the definition of what fans have come to expect from Longfellow, while continuing to grow and become more diverse. Longfellow, played a three-day string of CD release shows around Orange County and the Inland Empire, including Chain Reaction in Anaheim on Friday night, the Showcase Theatre in Corona on Saturday night, and on Sunday they were at Koo's Cafe in Santa Ana. Koo's Cafe is where I had the chance to catch up with somewhat over-celebrated and slightly intoxicated Longfellow.

by-joe licavoli

Skratch). How did the string of CD release shows go?

Longfellow: Tom) They all went really well. The first one, at Chain Reaction was the best, in my opinion. Andy) Saturday night was kind of lame.

Tom) I think we played, fucken' damn good, as far as I'm concerned. Chain Reaction was better than the Showcase; tonight's pretty cool too, because it's kind

weird, like a lot of different stuff

The whole band) So is the new album.

A slightly slurring Tom) For me, Kung Fu appealed to me, because it's a little more low pro than Epitaph was. I like that they're smaller based.

Skratch) Isn't the Vandals a band that Longfellow truly admires? The whole band) Yes!

Tom) That's beyond truly admires.

Skratch) And how does it feel to finally be on stage with them and simultaneously be on the label?

Band) It's great!

Mike) Also, the Vandals were also a major factor for us signing to Kung Fu. And Joe and Warren (from the Vandals), because we respect them a lot.

A slightly stumbling Tom) We could be a big fish in a small pond, or a medium fish in a small pond. Or we could be a small fish in a big pond. Yeah, we felt like we would get a little more attention at Kung Fu. So anyway, both labels are cool, but we love Kung Fu. Mike) Nothing against either of them.

Tom) We grew up with Epitaph bands, we like worshipped them.

Oh yeah put this in, my mom's here, and she's wearing a Longfellow shirt, that makes me happy, I digress

Skratch) Scott heard that some of your shows with the Vandals on tour did not go too well, what happened with the Vandals fans?

Tom) Sorry say that one more time.

Mike) He said that some of the shows didn't go well with the Vandals.

that, because were not like that. We'll do any style of song, we'll do any kind of song and put it on the album, no matter if it's a ballad, or ten minutes of feed back like on the last album, and then we have like an acoustic song.

Tom) You can't compromise your style for anyone, because that's what music's about, in my opinion, playing music comes from the heart and you have to do what you feel.

Skratch) Are you happy with Warren producing the album?

The whole band) Yes, very much, he did a great job Mike) What he did, was that Jelly Finn, did the last Vandals album. He's done like the Greenday and Jawbreaker album's. And he was paving attention while Jelly was working and he kind of used all of his tricks to help us.

Andy) He kind of got tips from Jelly Finn, and he used that with us, when he mixed the record. And it came out more full sounding and a lot bigger and beefier. Tony) We had a great time working with him.

Andy) And he's really meticulous with his stuff. He sits there and listens to it over and over it until he gets it right.

Mike) It's like working with one of your heroes, so it was really cool.

Tony) He's a great guy to get along with, so we had a great time working with him.

Skratch) is there still going to be the newsletters, should fans still be expecting that?

Mike) Yeah, we still have been putting them out, our mailing list has gotten really big, so now it's probably going to be like Summer/Winter (instead of every seasonl



of crowded. Tonight was also cool, because Wrist Action played. And Wrist Action is the shit! Wahoo! Skratch) How does it feel to finally have the

new album out? Tom) Good, it kicks ass. So, I'm pretty happy with it, and its selling pretty good as far as I know.

Skratch) What was your lyrical focus on this new album?

Tom) Well, half of it is just poems that I transcribed into lyrics. Some (of the lyrics) I actually sat down and wrote on purpose, like Little Disaster, which was about life in general. And some (of the lyrics), I don't know what the hell they mean, because sometimes I do that...well, come over here! Mike Dourty, guitarist! Mike) Hey, what's up!

Tom) Overall what I like from my lyrics is to get people to form their own opinions of what they stand for

and that to me is what makes them cool. Mike) We want to thank Pushover for playing.

Yeah ,and Wrist Action, and thanks to My Superhero for playing. Another member... Tony, gui-

tarist. Skratch) What do you think peaked the interest of Kung Fu, since your not exactly a normal punk band?

Andy) Epitaph took us out first and offered us a really good contrast and we talked about it, and it was all really good, and they were super nice to us. And then Kung Fu, talked to us, well actually Joe did, and basically what changed our mind was touring, Joe offered us some really good tours, and he'd match what ever Epitaph would give us, but both label's treated us unbelievable.

Mike) Also, the interest was because we sold a bunch of our old album, and we put it out ourselves, the old album was all DIY. We sold a lot of copies and did our newsletter, and the labels saw that and saw that kids were into it. Also, the old album was like kind of Tom) The only show that the crowd wasn't into us, was in Dallas.

Mike) That actually wasn't that bad, it was fine. They were pitting and everything.

Tom) They were not. Mike) Yeah they were

Tom) Really? I don't remember (loss of memory one sign of too much alcohol).

Mike) Actually, Vandals crowds are really hard to win over, but they all dug us.

Andy) But in Dallas there's a lot of old school crusty people.

Mike) But there were a lot of younger kids that liked us too.

Tom, slurring again) The other one, though was Seattle, that was narsh

Andy from Kung Fu) No, it wasn't I was there, and there were like two people saying, you suck. I was in

the crowd, Tom; I was standing right there Tom) We one the crowd over better than Wank Tony) They were throwing bottles at Wank.

The whole band) But Wank was cool, they were very nice guys, they were really cool.

Skratch) Would you agree that the new album, And So On, is a little bit more emo flavored, than the last one?

Tom) Yeah, actually it is, very much so.

Darren) Well, not emo, in the music cense. We were able to capture our emotions, but put it in another form of music, but not emo.

Tom) I think we blended punk and emo really well. we took both genera's, and made it our own.

Andy) Yeah, some of the songs are really emo, but than their kind of poppy, kind of like Gamface. Darren) Yeah, and were probably going to catch

wraiths for that, but we don't care. Tom) We jus love what we do.

Mike) We have always done what ever we wanted to do, we never make a song and go, no, we cant do

Also, Tony and I, have been talking about doing a lot more in it, on the road, when we have time. It's cool, because then people know what were up to, so it's rad.

Mike) Yeah, like when I get a newsletter from another band, I think it's really cool. Because it keeps you up to date on what they're doing, because sometimes, I'm like, I wonder where they have been. Tom) And then you get those bands that send you a

couple free one's that are big like that, and then they say, if you get another one you have to pay for it. Mike) Yeah, were all about freebees

Tom) In my opinion, I think it's great that we put it out for free.

Mike) Yeah, were stoked on the new album, I hope people check it out, it's diverse.

Tom) Yeah, were having fun.

Mike) It's in a lot of stores, and if it's not there, they can order it or they can ask the store to get it.

Yeah, I called Tower records and Vinyl Tom) Solution..

Mike) Yeah, we heard it, we heard it last night [Laughs]

Tom) Shut up.

Skratch) Do you have anything to say to your fans?

Thanks! Go to the shows, and buy the new Mike) album.

Tom) Also, um, when Christmas comes around, praise GOD.

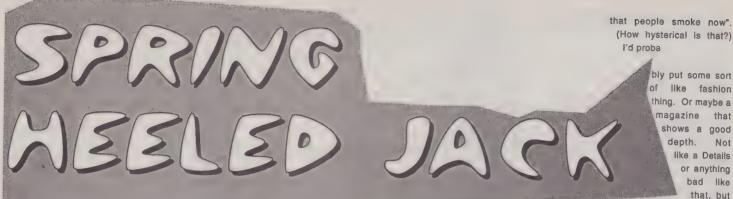
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(How hysterical is that?) I'd proba bly put some sort of like fashion

thing. Or maybe a magazine that shows a good denth Not like a Details or anything bad like that, but

maybe one of the weirder

kind of fashion mags. I'd put in a zine, because I think it's really important for people to know what was going on in the underground. I'd probably put in a handful of CDs from bands that were really popular. Really crappy bands like Backstreet Boys and stupid shit like that. And at the same time I would put in CDs of bands who were unbelievable that nobody likes. Put in 7"s. I'd probably be very selfish about it. Toys. Holy cow would I put in toys!

PHASER: Would you ever sell one of your songs for a commercial, and if so, what product would you endorse?

> RICK: Yeah, I think I would. We have a song called "Time". We had it on our first demo cassette. It's the first song I ever learned when I was in this band. And the chorus is like, "Time is what you make of it". And someone once told me, "Swatch uses that as a motto". And then I was like, "Ugh, I would never", and then I was like, "Actually Swatch is kinda cool, man". 1

> > always like their ads, their style. So I think it would depend. Maybe I would. I wouldn't mind being in a Vans or an Airwalk commercial.

PHASER: Besides this band, what would you say your biggest claim to fame? RICK: Hmmm...

PHASER:

could be stupid. RICK: It could be.

PHASER: Like, everyone knows you for, dot, dot, dot. RICK: Everyone knows me for "Let's Get It On", by Marvin Gaye. If it's played in a bar and I'm with any of my friends, it's either been A) played by me B) played by one of my friends for me or C) played by a complete stranger in the bar but everyone looks

Interview by Kathleen Krocho photos by Kathleen Krocho Kathleen (PHASER)

Spring Heeled Jack are a good-time ska outfit from the little guy state known as Connecticut. With the release of their second disc, "Songs From Suburbia", they've proven they've got what it takes to be in the company of some of skas big kahunas. Madness and The Specials are two that spring to mind (pun intended). And they ain't no stranger to getting gigs with the big boys. They've shared the stage with The Mighty Mighty Bosstones and Cherry Poppin' Daddies. And tonight was no exception. After their final show opening for Reel Big Fish, I got a chance to talk with bass boy, Rick. I won't even call it an interview because he was so

damn personable and cool, it felt like we were old friends having a conversation. Ok, so maybe I'm from Connecticut and I happen to know him, but still...

PHASER: Do you remember what your first live show was like and where it was?

RICK: As in the first show that we played or the first show that I had ever seen?

PHASER: Oh, the first show that you played.

RICK: First show that we ever played (with me in the band) was probably about six years ago. The band was together like a year before I got in the band. It was kinda like a party band and it was only a handful of gigs

and they we're crap, basically. I mean, I hate to say that, but, they weren't really that serious about it. Our first live show was in Farmington, CT; at a high school. It was a show that these kids put on and it was awesome. We kicked butt. We had never played before, but there were so few ska bands in CT. In fact, there were none. So many people were amazed. Like, "Oh my God, there's a horn section". It was kinda pampered. You know, the first gig you think about it, should be crappy. So right off the bat you know what you=re in for.

PHASER: What would you put in a time capsule that would help signify the 90's?

RICK: That's a tough question. Let the smoke come outta my ears. Well, no food, that's for sure. I would put a little sample of marijuana cause my mom always says to me, "The pot when I smoked when I was younger was not as strong as the pot at me.

PHASER: Is that one of your favorite songs?

RICK: It's probably one of the sexiest songs every written on God's great Earth.

PHASER: Do you ever find it odd that just because you're a musician or, say a movie star, people want to ask you questions and are interested in what you have to say?

RICK: I'll have to look at in a personal sense. I get weirded out when people want me to sign autographs. And I get weirded out when people look at my opinion like it's some normal thing. But at the same time, if I met Jason Spaceman, I'd probably be like, "How did you come up with... like do you write the guitar and the bass first?" From a personal standpoint, I'd ask questions to find out... What does this line mean? Or whatever. Like you find out, what's that song by The Beatles, "Martha My Dear"? That's about Paul McCartney's dog. That's just so bad ass, you know what I mean? I would like to know the inspiration. I think it's pretty cool when people ask me [stuff like that].

PHASER: Have you ever been surprised by someone's presence at one of your shows?

RICK: Two nights ago the middle weight champion of the world was at the show.

PHASER: Was this In Vegas or something?

RICK: Arizona. It was pretty weird. Who else has shown up? Janeane Garafalo...

PHASER: REALLY? (Astonished, cause you know, Janeane is so damn cool).

RICK: She was at a show that we did with The Bosstones. But I know she was there to see us cause our A&R dude is friends with her and he brought her. The dudes from Anthrax came to see us once. I'm usually more surprised by friends who just kinda pop up outta nowhere.

PHASER: How frustrating is it for you and your band to comprehend radio and MTV playing the same 20 songs? You must feel like, no one really gets a chance.

RICK: It's horrendous and it's demeaning. Especially like, Radio 104 (which is a CT station). I just imagine being the program director and getting the new Spring Heeled Jack CD dropped there and I imagine going to myself, AWhoa, CT band. Ya know, kind of a major label. Let's promote the crap out of these guys. It's like a regional band and if something happens to these guys, we can be like, "Hey man, we were the first ones." But you know what? They don't play the tune, they didn't do anything to help us. Not a single thing. I get weirded out because I love bands like Stereolab and Spiritualized and so many people have no idea who they are. And it sucks because I'm supposedly in the music business and I watch MTV like once a month. Like it's a cool channel when they...

PHASER: Gee... have videos.

RICK: Yeah, have videos. 120 Minutes is like the best thing they have going for them. MTV is so run by hip-hop, and I love hip-hop, but it's not the only style of music there is. And to kinda go with that, I didn't think it was fair in the 80's that only metal was played. It kinda makes me go, Al don't understand this. Like the new Liz Phair. I'm amazed that it's not on the radio.

PHASER: Do you remember what was the first song you learned to play?

RICK: When I was 13 I learned how to play "Wasted Years". Just the beginning. By Iron Maiden. And I played it awful.

PHASER: What is your proudest Spring Heeled Jack moment?

RICK: There's a few and they're not specifics. Hearing the new record. I don=t want to toot my own horn, but I'm very proud of our record. This is like the stock answer when people say, "How do I feel about the new record?" I feel like it's a favorite picture of me. Everybody has a favorite picture they have of themselves. This is my favorite picture of me. It looks good. It has the right essence of the band. There's a few things missing, but there's never a perfect photograph, ya know? Another proud moment for me would be, individually, my mom and my dad and their reaction to things that happen. When my mom comes home one day and she tells me that she bragged to people at work about something. When the other guys in the band are proud. Watching them succeed individually. Watching the musicians in my band mature as songwriters.

If you can't get enough Spring Heeled Jack, check out their new 7" single coming out in November on Secret Seven Records. For more info, email: secretlp@aol.com. Or check out their web site at: www.springheeledjack.com. Hint: If you really want to make the guys happy, bring 'em mass quantities of Star Wars stuff.



Busting out with:

BRIAN

By Jaymes Mayhem

This five-piece power pop band hasn't been around long, but in the short time that they've been together they've managed to make a name for themselves. From recording a stellar debut album entitled "Leave Your Flaws At Home" for Vegas Records to playing to large audiences and opening for some pretty well established acts, Bank Of Brian is slowly becoming one of Orange County's better known bands. On the verge of their first major tour of the west coast, a small yet arduous tour with My Superhero, this little band that could definitely has a lot to boast about.

Bank Of Brain consists of Kevin Vu (Lead Vocal, Rhythm Guitar, Synth), Marcus Perry (Lead Guitar, Back Up Vocals), Kyle Homme (Lead/Rhythm) Guitar, B/U Vocal), Sach Sabhlok (Bass), and

Jason Batuyong (Drums, B/U Vocal, Theramin). I recently sat down with band at a small coffeehouse in Orange to talk about the band, the album, and their future.

Mayhem: How are you guys doing? Jason: Doing good!

Sach: Good.

Mayhem: Good, thanks for being here.

Jason: No problem.

Mayhem: Well, let's get into it! First off, tell me a bit about the band, how did you guys all hook up?

Jason: Well we got together about two years ago when I met Kevin at a Ska Parade radio show out of Irvine. We decided we wanted a rock band that had no ska influence at all. We started jammin' some songs, then Jason introduces me to Marcus, who originally played bass. After a bit Marcus didn't want to play bass anymore so he brought in Sach to play bass. About a year later we met Kyle and we've been going since then.

Mayhem: So what music backgrounds do you have? A few of you came from other bands before landing in Bank Of Brian right?

Jason: I was marching in a high school band and doing nothing!

Kevin: I was in a ska band with Marcus called Nothing Special, we both played guitar.

Kyle: I used to play drums in One In A Million. That's how I met these guys, Bank Of Brian played a few shows with One In A Million.

Mayhem: As far as musical sound. what band do you think most closely resembles Bank Of Brian's sound? Jason: Queen, a little bit of Boston. a little bit of Journey.

Mayhem: Journey is good! Jason: Just your standard power pop band. We sound like Weezer. but they sound like those bands I just mentioned too.

Mayhem: How long have you guys been playing shows together? Jason: About a year and a half.

Kevin: Our first show was June of 197, so like a year and three months... Jason: Where was that at?

Kevin: I think it was at The Hub. We only played there once. Wait, it was Public Storage!

Jason: No, no, no! We played that guy's house!

Kevin: Oh yeah! We had just finished recording our first demo and we played some guy's party! It was a great party though!

Sach: Yeah that was my friend's party.

> Mayhem: So how long after that did you guys actually get "Leave Your Flaws Behind" started?

> Jason: Well the album came together, we started that in March. The actual idea for the album was Jon's. Jon Halperin from Vegas Records saw us play

showcase at

One In A Million's last

show in December of '97. He came up to me and told me that he wanted to do an album. So we had to convince him that we weren't gonna break up, that we were going to stay around. Then in March we started recording and we finished the album around May.

Mayhem: Where did you guys record the album? Jason: At G-Son studios in Glendale. The Beastie Boys own it. Mayhem: Oh yeah! I heard of it!

Mayhem: So how long did you actually spend recording the album?

Jason: Off and on, like probably three months. We would spend like four or five days straight and take a little break. Then we would come back and redo some songs and mix-

Mayhem: Let's talk about the album itself. Who wrote the songs for the album and where did you get your inspiration?

Kevin: Well I write most of the stuff for the band and wrote the songs on this album.

Mayhem: Cool, so tell me a bit about what's behind some of the songs on the CD. I'm just going to pick some tracks at random. How about the title track, "Leave Your Flaws At Home"?

Kevin: "Leave Your Flaws At Home" is basically, even though it doesn't sound like it, it's a song about feeling good. You know, not worrying about things. If you're going to come to see us leave your flaws at home because we're here to show you a good time and the only way we can do that to its full potential is for you not to worry about your shit



'You and Her" is about Marcus and his girlfriend Squintz. Just about how they can't get enough of each other and I thought it was kind of funny, so I wrote a song about it.

Mayhem: "Highest Jungle Gym"? Kevin: This is actually a funny story! There's this girl I used to have a crush on in first through fourth grade and I actually just started talking to her again recently. thought o.k., I spent a big portion of my life being totally in love with you, so I'm going to write a song about you. The catch is it's from the point of view of a little kid.

Mayhem: So since the album has come out and you guys have been playing a lot of shows. Who have you played with, who do you enjoy playing with?

Jason: Well we've played with a few bands. Kara's Flowers, My Superhero, Buck-O-Nine, and Dial 7 to name a few.

Kevin: We also played for Jimmie Pop from The Bloodhound Gang.

Mayhem: Really?

Kevin: Yeah, for some cat's birthday.

It was an actual cat.

Jason: We also played for Cory Feldman!

Mayhem: How funny is that!

Mayhem: So what has been the most positive aspect out of this whole experience, especially since

the album came out?

Sach: I'd have to say its been the fans. I think it's so cool to have people coming to your shows and supporting you. It's a real rush to know that people actually like what you're doing.

Marcus: I think it's how much we've grown over the past year both musically and as friends. I



Jason: Well, we've gotten to play a lot of really cool, fun shows and it's kind of gotten us out there and people know who we are. Because of the album we are going to go out on tour and that's something I've wanted to do for a really long time.

Mayhem: So tell me a bit about this tour you're getting ready to go out on.

Jason: We're heading out on tour at the end of September and we'll be out until the 18th of October. It's going to be a whole Western U.S. tour with My Superhero. We can't wait to get out there!

Mayhem: That's cool! So let me ask you, what is the one thing that you guys people take with them from seeing you guys live?

Kevin: A newly mixed version of our cd. No, seriously I want them to be able to say on the way home from the show, Damn those guys were really good! I'm glad we spent the five or six bucks to see them" If even only one person says that, then it's worth it.

Mayhem: Well let me say thanks for your time guys. The new album rocks, I wish you the best on your up coming tour and nothing but continued success guys!

Jason: Thanks, we appreciate all the support and we can't wait to see everybody out at our shows!

Kevin: Yeah, thanks for the support!

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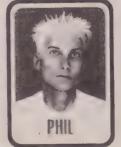












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THE BOUNC-ING SOULS THEBOUNC-ING SOULS SEBOUOULS

By Digi Photos by Digi

This interview was done on 7-2-98, about five minutes before their set at the OC/LA Warped Tour. I saw Greg bouncing around on a pogo stick, so I hit him up for an interview. He wound up taking the pogo stick on stage with him.

Digi: So what are you guys doing after the Warped Tour? Greg: We're going home, gonna finish up some new tunes that we will be recording in October for a new record.

Digi: And that will be out on Epitaph? Greg: Yes. It will be out around February.

Digi: Is there a title vet? Greg: We're working on it.

Digi: Same old Bouncing Souls that we all love? Greg: Yes, but better.

Digi: So how long are you on the warped tour for? Greg: Two weeks, up until Tulsa, Oklahoma.

Digi: Are you going straight home from there?

Greg: Yea, we're gonna finish up the record. We have 9 songs. and were gonna write a couple more. Then were gonna tour out and here because we are gonna record here in LA.

Digi: So in October should we'be looking for you guys playing somewhere like The Showcase? Greg: Yea, somewhere like that.

Digi: So there's the rest of your year right there, Greg: Yea our whole year is ready to rock.

Digi: Have you ever been to Europe?

Greg: Yea, we just got from Europe actually, we played with

Millencolin. The Swedish band.

Digi: Yea. who's on Epitaph. Did you have to drive around your own tour van around?

Greg: This is our first time having a tour bus, we shared it with Millencolin. It was good, because they're European, so they knew their way around. The bus was like a street bus transferred over. so it looked like it was straight outta Mad Max. It was flat black, all gray, with these huge massive steel doors in the back.

Digi: Do you have a good time in Europe?

Greg: It's totally cool, these last shows were with Millencolin, and they're pretty big over there. So the shows were really good. A

Digi: You like being on Epitaph?

Greg: Yes it's great. You know our records out there.

We spend some time talking about Joe and Warren from The Vandals being on their last CD, and how Warren says Yoo Hoo in their song Shark Attack, and how there is a Yoo Hoo booth at Warped. Greg was going to try and score himself a free T-shirt or something. He then gets called away, they're about to go on stage. The next half are segments that come from later in the day when I see Greg all decked out in a full soccer uniform kicking around a soccer ball. He took me over to this shaded area and we talked for about 20 minutes.

Digi: So how do you think your set went?

Greg: Oh it was great, everyone was kickin' up dirt out there. having a good of time.

Digi: You guys look like you have fun out there. Greg: We really do.

Digi: Any interesting tour stories you wanna share?

Greg: Everything is unusual usually. It's the little things that are strange. Like the searches you have to find places to shit in Europe are very unusual. It's hard to explain exactly. But you'll be in some kind of 1940's burnt out barracks in Germany. And you'll be like searching this dark hallway for a bathroom. And if you even find toilet paper, holy shit, that is an unusual thing. So that's my unusual story, finding a place to shit in Europe.

Digi: Are you gonna carry toilet paper with you next time you go

landlord

the

Kids

ten people liv-

back?

Greg: I'm definitely gonna get some when I'm there.



ever, have it in the backyard. So finally it just came to a T, and we were like, "Fuckin' this is retarded. No one wants to live here any more. What the hell are we doing? This place is a dirt hole, it sucks, we have no money." So we started breaking shit in the house. And then I'm coming down the stairs, and Dave's carry-

ing the toilet, like with the back. He was all, "I can't believe I carried this all the way up from the basement." I was like. "Fuckin' A man" He's on the stairs, and like about to fall back. So finally we get it up onto the roof and Pete and Dave were gonna chuck it off the roof. And I was like, "Wait! Wait! I'm goin' down!" So it fell like two stories and smashed all

Digi: That's crazy. Greg: It was a beautiful thing.

Digi: And so how much damage did you guys cause?
Greg: Well, out landlord was just this crazy old lyin' bastard. He said it was \$10.000. But the place was totally busted to start, you know a piece of shit hole. He tried to claim it was \$10.000 worth of damage.

over the sidewalk into a million pieces.

Digi: Yea, to collect all the insurance money.

Greg: Yea so, we didn't pay anything. So the lesson of that story is, you break stuff when you need to, but when it's other people's stuff, watch out.

Digi: That's a good lesson for the kids

<< Greg and I spend some time talking about eating Salt and Vinegar Fry's which they mention in their song "Quick Chek Girt". We also talk about some of the new songs they played that day which include "Bullying The Jukbox" and "87". >>

Digi: I heard, on one of your older albums, you went to record, and you really didn't have all the songs done. So one of the Stern brothers [from Youth Brigade, owns BYO], locked you up in a basement, and said write the rest, and in like one night you wrote most of the album. Is that true?

Greg: That was Maniacal Laughter, and that pretty much happened. We were touring out here to record, and we only had like six songs. We had studio time paid for, and we were on the road heading for the studio. We were like, "What are we gonna do?" And we broke down in Indiana, and that's where we got "Here's We Go". So the next morning I wrote down the lyrics. When we got here, we had two weeks where we stayed at Shawn Stern's house. Just hung out, went to the beach. We wrote Lamar Vannoy, and some others.

Digit Is there a real...

Greg: Yea Lamar is a friend of ours. He went on tour with us. You know the new record, well he wrote the stuff on the inside. Lamar's tour diary is the funniest thing. That's just a little piece from it. Lamar isn't the ruff type at all, he's sort of this skinny punk

Digi: So you wrote this song without him even knowing about it? Greg. Yea it was recorded before he knew about the song, he would have been mad. People think he's like this bruiser beer drinkin' kind of guy.

Digi: I picture like a 16-year-old kid that you knew... Greg: That loved his music, exactly. That was the idea. So we wrote like about four songs while at the Stern's. Digi: Maniacal Laughter is a lot more hard opposed to The Good. The Bad. Do you think that came from writing the second on the fly?

Greg: On the first record, we had never really gone on tour, we were just a local band, we were so excited to just record, you know. By the time for the second record, we had been touring, we were whole different people. Years had gone by, five, six years had gone by.

Digi: You had all those experiences from being on the road.

Greg: Yea your life changes, you don't really perceive life the same your whole life. You grow up. And hopefully you learn, and perceive or see life a little better or more clearly so you can live better. So if a band stays the same for over ten years, to me, that would be kind of a bore. With each record, that's a piece of time. That can't ever happen again.

Digi: Well thanks a lot for the interview and we look forward to seeing you in October, and also the new record around February.

Greg: Thanks a lot. I'm really excited about the new record. I like all the songs we got. They're pretty funny, pretty rockin'. It's gonna be great.

Digi: Well we'll see you then. Later. Greg: Aight.

So there's my interview. I saw Greg and the guys a few more times during the day, hanging out around their booth. And even when it was dark at this barbecue with some of the bands. Greg was still kicking around that soccer ball.









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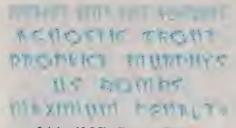
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October 10 @ The Showcase Theater by Ty Robinson photos by Scott W.

Much like any good hardcore song, I'm going to try to keep this short and sweet. Walt, did I sweet? Well, you get the idea. The last show I went to like this, was not a pretty sight. People were Dropping left and right, like a scene out of Saving Private Ryan. Maybe people are beginning to wise up, or maybe the club owner was pumping some sort of

sedative in through the air ducts, but whatever it was, there was only one fight and the participants were girls, making the whole thing almost laughable.

Maximum Penalty took the stage to a less than enthusiastic crowd and played a markedly east coast flavor of almost glam hardcore. The reason I say glam is cause the vocals reminded me quite a bit of Corey Glover, the singer for Living Color, all kind of higher pitched and sustained for just a second too long. They really weren't half bad, most of their songs seemed to be a sort of story telling, with titles like "Comin Home" and "Acceptance". If there's one thing I've noticed in my limited knowledge of the hardcore in general, it's that the bands from the Atlantic side of the country don't seem to be caught up so much in the whole vegan straight edge thing as do those who claim the west coast. They have positive messages most of the time and seem to be more about introspection than acting out on their crowds and I like that. Maximum Penalty closed

shouldn't they? These guys are fucking old. Like your grandparents age. I had never seen them before tonight, but every time I saw a picture of them, it was always of the singer who seemed to be perpetually bent down like he was mid-scream. Only now do I realize that he sings with the mic stand at about crotch level and spends a great deal of the set laying across the stage. Maybe it's cause he's old and his legs are giving out. The Bombs are a good band and I realize they are very well respected, I just don't like them.

Last time I saw Dropkick Murphy's I was absolutely floored by their power and intensity. Much of said power and intensity had to do with their singer Mike something or another. For reasons unknown to me, he left the band, so I was quite ready for a disappointment when I saw them this time around. The new singer (I don't know his



with what I think was a Bad Brains cover but still, the crowd didn't give them half a chance. If you are a

name, but I guess he used to be in the Bruisers) kicked my ass. He was every bit the scrappy Bostonian Mike was, if not more. The band marched on stage accompanied by their usual bagpipe background music and ripped into a strong instrumental before the singer joined them to unleash his vocal destruction. He stood with a clenched fist behind his back, hovering over the audience, screaming in their faces and holding the mic out for them to sing. They played some new stuff which was quite impressive and he did the old songs Justice as well. Again, I just love these east coast dudes. They don't get on stage and talk about a bunch of bullshit, they Just get up there and bring the house down. The singer said that they would have a new album out on St. Patrick's day next year, so you know what I'll be listening to in my drunken stupor come March.

Finally, Agnostic Front closed the evening. While I didn't like them quite as much as I liked Dropkick, they were still good and I can see they have earned their title as the kings of hardcore. Scorching guitars, heaving drums and those trademark hardcore vocals made for a pretty good show. I didn't know any of the



connoisseur of hardcore these guys might be worth a listen.

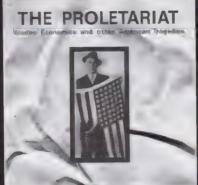
Next came what I thought was a lackluster performance from the U.S. Bombs. They seemed to play a fairly standard brand of old school punk and why

songs they played, but their energy transcended my ignorance. The singer confessed to being sick, making his performance that much more impressive. I only intended to stay for a song or two, but before I knew it, they were done and it was time to go home.





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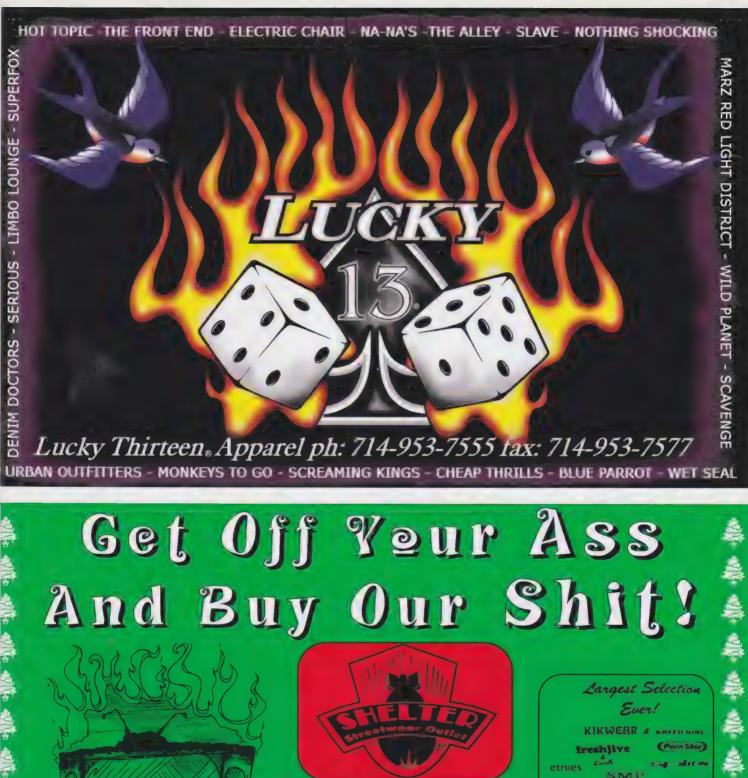
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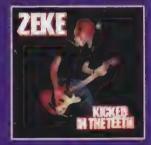
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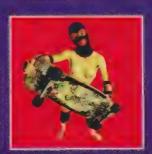
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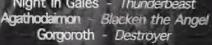


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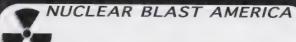


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Wank Burnin' Groove Lit Eyeland

October 10th @ Club 369, Fullerton by Marcia Taylor

I'd been looking forward to this show since I saw It advertised several weeks in advance, because I've written about and enjoyed the music of all of the bands, except Eyeland (a fairly new band from Hollywood), for the last several years. And It was a great evening of music, notable not only for technical excellence, but also for the variety in the types of music performed. Unfortunately, from a reviewer's point of view, It had one major flaw. 369 was extremely crowded that night, filled with faces of people I hadn't seen in a long time, and somehow, in all the ruckus, I lost the notes I'd taken on the first three band's sets. So If this review is less precise than usual, I hope that the bands and readers will forgive me.

Eyeland, a four-plece, opened the show, and I caught the band's last three songs. I was very impressed with the vocals – they were strong, clean and very passionate. The guitar playing was excellent, especially on the last number, which had some nicely picked leads, as well as some very cool wah-wah stuff going on. Eyeland plays hard rock which reminded me of the late '70s, although a friend felt that the sound, particularly the vocal style, was more late '80s/early '90s. It's the kind of hard rock that's great to drive to late at night when you're all alone on the highway and have to get somewhere really far and need something to Jack you up. I'd definitely see Eyeland again if I had the chance.

The rest of the evening was strictly local. Fullerton's Burnin' Groove, which plays a kind of '90s rockin' party music, took the stage and performed an energetic, tight set of songs. Most of the tunes were new to me; I haven't seen the band play in more than a year. Old favorites were "Anybody See" and "Mission Kili". Songs I hadn't heard before but really liked were "Brandliyn", which had a really catchy, BIG beat, courtesy of drummer Steve Lynch (is he REALLY the best-looking drummer in OC as per OC "Weekly" — your vote IS important) and "Fourteen Miles Away", another potentially great driving song. Guitarist Andrew Galvez still really keeps me riveted with his dynamic leads.

Lit opened its set with the good news that the band has been signed by RCA. This show was the last Lit will play for awhile, as the quartet will be in the studio recording. When I first started covering the scene several years ago, I liked Lit (then called Stain) because it had its own very distinct, heavy, hard rock sound. And this was when you rarely heard anything but punk and before ska caught on. Lit continues to play hard and heavy, but has leavened it's newer material with some pop hooks. "Fuel" is my favorite of the older tunes I got to hear -- It's a really catchy number with a chorus that begs to be sung along to. "Four" and "Quicksand" really caught my ear. Vocalist A.J. continues to keep the audience rapt with his impassioned vocals and strong stage presence, and the rest of the guys back him up with style.

The final band to take the stage that night was Wank, whose members have been touring heavily the last year, opening for acts like Social Distortion. Wank's sound seemed less ska-driven and more pop-driven than I remembered it, which was good for me. The band plays very tight, well-crafted, hook-heavy music that has a distinct OC sound that

melds punk, pop and ska into a dense chunk of good listening. I liked the opening number, "Never" and "Paranoid", which had a really infectious chorus (O.K. - I'm a sucker for a catchy chorus). I find it pretty amazing that Wank has a CD out and is on a major label like Maverick but still seems to be kind of low profile. It makes me wonder if the label really is into supporting and backing its bands. On the other hand, if Maverick worked harder, I probably wouldn't have had the opportunity to see Wank at 369, so maybe I shouldn't worry about it.

Pietasters Hepcat Cherry Poppin' Daddies

by Cecelia Martinez
photos by Cecelia Martinez

In the space of a year, the Pletasters have quickly become one of my favorite bands. In fact, they are what I usually listen to on my commute to work everyday. I have been looking forward to seeing them again, ever since their phenomenal performance at this years Warped tour.

Led by the gravelly voiced Stephen Jackson, the Pletasters turned in an impressive set Thursday October 8, at the Hollywood Palladium. The too short set included almost all the songs off their current Helicat release "Willis" Highlights included



"Ocean" and "Without You". "Out All Night" was a crowd favorite and definitely the high point of the set. This song never falls to remind me of summer, or maybe the end of summer. Either way, I was completely impressed by the performance. What I like about this band is that there is a lot going on within each song. There is a sychronicty and a playing off of one another that works well. Also extremely eye-catching is the horn section consisting of Jeremy Roberts on trombone, Toby Hansen on trumpet, and Alan Makraney on sax. The trio are awesome on songs like "Crazy Monkey Woman, where their skilled playing and Jackson's powerful vocals are an electric combination. Although the Pietasters opened the show they were definitely not to be missed.

Hepcat was simply hip with their crazy Caribbean funk, with a dash of James Brown, a pinch of punk, and a slice ska. That, by the way being my lame attempt to explain what Hepcat is like. Hepcat has



sound that deserves to be heard rather than explained. Hepcat is a band I've heard much about but unfortunately have never gotten the chance to see. I say unfortunately because they are a truly new experience in the wasteland that stands for the universe of music today. The crowd which seemed to be made up of their biggest fans, were a sweaty dancing frenzy through most of the set.



while the Cherry Poppin Daddy's falthfuls were waiting in the wings.

Everyone was out to swing (including all those people who wish they knew how to swing) as Cherry Poppin' Daddies took the stage. While lead guitarist Jason Moss tore it up, lead singer Steve Perry preened and pranced and danced and almed to make all the little girlies up front scream. I have to admit, Perry has a certain obnoxious panache that plays well to the crowd. He was quite a sight as he turned up the charm full blast and lived and littered across the stage during songs like "Drunk Daddy" and "Brown Derby Jump". At times it seemed like he was the main attraction rather than the music, which was slightly irritating. Nevertheless, CPD's knows what their audience wants and delivers it with no questions asked. Songs like "Here Comes The Snake" take on a very energetic quality in front of a screaming, dancing crowd. The crowd was especially amped when they played "Zoot Sult Riot" complete with the Spanish verses. Although there are better swing bands in the land, Cherry Poppin Daddies' know how to please their audience, and that is at least half the battle.



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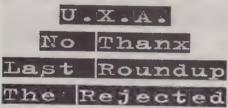
Pharmaceutical Bandits Numbnuts Unleaded Plus Simply Kung Fu

November 7th at Chain Reaction by Marcia Taylor

Numbnuts had finished playing its set by the time I arrived at Chain Reaction. While I was still reeling from the shock of the appalling youthfulness of the audience, I got to hear Unleaded Plus play four songs. UP is a very energetic ska band from L.A., and its set was well-received by the crowd. My own reaction was moderate; it sounded like pretty average ska to me.

I'd been very eager to see Simply Kung Fu, because I'd read a couple of show reviews in this selfsame magazine that described the band's sound as "indescribable" - pretty damn ironic, no? And the show coordinator echoed this when she talked to me. Okay, the whole "label" thing pisses lots of people off, band members and fans allke, and it can be limiting. But if I had to choose a tag, I'd say old school punk, maybe Black Flag. earliest version. I guess lately "punk" makes people think of either hardcore or pop punk, and in that sense. Simply Kung Fu is different from a lot of punk bands out there, having the more punk-roots sound. The lead singer showed a lot of style and fronted the band really well. On the negative side, I thought the songs all sounded pretty similar, and none really grabbed me. If you want to check out Simply Kung Fu, the band has a 13-song CD, so look for it.

The final band onstage was the Pharmaceutical Bandits, who play ska, but with some very nice rock 'n' roll styling worked into it. Also, instead of a trombone, the guys have a saxophone, which I thought was pretty cool. The band was recording the night's set for a live seven-inch, and that may have helped make this such a tight, energetic set. I really liked "Metal Man", which had some nice guitar work in it, also "Teen Idol", which is obviously a signature tune. A new song, "Cornered", had a nice, taut, tense feeling to it, as well as nice harmonles. I liked the drummers' style – he gets a real resonant "boom" sound going. The Pharmaceutical Bandits have a new CD due out this January. If you like ska with an edge, I'd definitely pick it up and/or see the band live.



November 14 @ Linda's Doll Hut by Marcia Taylor

I will be honest and admit that I went to see this show solely because of U.X.A. I rarely get to see musicians my age playing punk rock, especially women musicians. There were two other bands on the bill that night, but I didn't arrive in time to see them. I don't like to arrive at a club before 9:30 or 10 p.m., and the band that plays before that magic hour usually loses me. It has to do with listening to three as opposed to five hours of really loud music, some of which I'm probably going to be less than enthusiastic about. And I just can't seem to get out the door and done with life's daily tasks before then.

No Thanx was about halfway through a sixteen-song set when I got to the show. I'd describe this quartet as your basic hardcore punk unit, with lots of energy and political commentary. Vocalist Josh "Bagel" Klassman kept the audience's attention between numbers with a rapid fire commentary on the events of the day - OJ lost custody of his kids, the close prospect of war against Iraq - with his own viewpoints tossed in; it was all rather aggressively manly. But that's the nature of the most of the hardcore I've seen and heard. Lots of enthusiastic moshing took place, especially by two of the largest human beings I've ever seen; I felt real fear then.

Last Roundup's set. Vocalist Elwood has a personality not unlike Gabby's and a very soulful voice, too. In between the very short, very old school punk songs, he told Jokes and insuited band members and friends in the audience. "Tombstone" and "Paranold Nazi" were real crowd pleasers, but what really made us all happy was when he did a sing-a-long version of that old Fear chestnut, "I Don't Care About You". Unfortunately, this performance was a reunion for the Whittier band; it is no longer a working unit. Otherwise, I'd say for a really good time, check these guys out.

I had a chance to meet DeDe Troit, the band's singer, guitarist, songwriter and torchbearer. I don't use the term "torchbearer" lightly, because U.X.A. is a band that was born as a political entity and continues to be one. Most of the songs are about one social issue or another, and DeDe remains a committed anarchist after many years of battering her head against the very sturdy wall of American capitalism. announced during the set that "anarchy is justice for all; anarchists care about animals and people". My personal favorite of her comments was, "a woman's work is never done . . . so let's see if the pope can finish it". The two other members of the trio are Suzy Owens on drums and Erica Mesa on bass. DeDe's guitar playing was really great, especially on "Chlapas" and "Social Circle". Suzy and Erica provided an excellent rhythm section. All the songs were catchy; I wish I could have heard the lyrics more clearly, but that wasn't the fault of the singer. I hope I can catch this band again soon.

Voodoo Glow Skulls Zeke Backside Pushover

@ The Glasshouse by Ty Robinson photo by Jimbo

So here I go with yet another in my long line of all too similar, uneducated, genre biased, way too picky show reviews. Every time I'm asked to review a show, I'm simply amazed that someone is willing to get me into a show for free and all I have to do is complain about it for a few paragraphs in exchange. Is that a great trade or what?

Jump starting things off right was Pushover. They played a tight set of poppy punk with horns, but more interesting to me was the crowds reaction to them. The people at this show did not, repeat, did not like Pushover. Maybe they are too cute, or too slow. Whatever it was, I don't think they made any new fans this evening. Near the very end of there set it became hard to hear the band over the boos. Poor guys. I kind of felt bad for them. This is a bit off track, but I'll tell you why I do not like this band. It's not the quality of their music, in fact they are a fairly strong band, especially if that's what you are into, but here is my reason; the last time I saw them, the singer seemed to be complaining about playing some ska songs. I know people may expect them to play a certain amount of ska flavored material, what with the Mealticket cloud still hanging over their heads, but the way I see It, you either play ska, or you don't. He said "I can't believe we're closing with a ska song". What the fuck is that? If you don't want to play ska, don't do it. If you do decide to play ska, just do it and be glad people give a shit enough to

Ready to ugly things up and I mean ugly in like a really good way was Backside. As usual, their set was nothing less than the absolute best. I can't tell you how much I've grown to like this band in the last year. After playing as a quartet for a while, they added a second guitar player and have regained that old fat Backside sound. For those unfamiliar, this is a no bullshit, blazing guitars, pounding drums screamed vocals brand of punk rock which is very rare these days. I once read a comparison of them which said they sound like a cross between NOFX and Bilnk-182. Now, regardless of how I feel about those bands, Backside does not sound remotely like either. I've always thought they sound

bands they get lumped in with, so fittingly enough they played "I Don't Wanna Hear It", which at the urging of singer Steve Harris, spawned a pit of mammoth proportions. They stammed through a good half hour of material form both of their records as well as a yet untitled song which they simply refer to as "the fast one". That it was. Backside has the ability to mix blistering speed with an infectious catchy quality that can't be beat. Me like Backside. You should too.

Hailing from Seattle Washington comes the methamphetamine fueled, anger driven, balls out, thrash stylings of the one and only Zeke. Armed with 3 chords, a stack of Marshall amps, and tattoo's out the yin yang, these guys could take on an army of Navy Seal's and come out on top with the amount of intensity they harness. All of their songs are pretty much interchangeable, but that doesn't stop Zeke from kicking an audiences ass. Before each number, the singer yells "This songs called (insert unintelligible song title here)....1-2-3-4!" and tears through a minute or two of frightening music. He and the other gultar player just stood there, legs spread wide like Billy Zoom, melting pick after pick never stopping except for the time when in between songs someone in the crowd made a less than positive comment to which the singer repiled "Fuck you. We've got your money. Go home!.....1-2-3-4!" and went about his business. Zeke's drummer is an animal in human skins. He pounds his kit so hard I thought my eyes were going to crack. When he's done with that he taunts the audience with two defiant middle fingers and screams "Fuck you! I have a mic and you don't!". That was all the convincing I needed. Zeke is the poopla. I'm gonna grow my hair long and greasy, start doing speed and follow Zeke around the country like they were the Grateful Dead. 1-2-3-4...Zeke rules! Closing out the night in a semi-homecoming of sorts was the Inland Empire's Voodoo Glow Skulls. I got their newest album when it came out a few months before this night and thought it was just more of the same old Voodoo. About a week before the show I started listening to it again and realized just how good a record It actually is. Yes it is the same old Voodoo, but they have grown a tremendous amount in the last few years. I was looking for a very dramatic change, something I could see right away, so with my first few listens to this album I made the mistake of over looking all the subtleties. Going back I saw all the thing I missed the first time. The production of the record, the song writing, and the music have all undergone a tremendous amount of growth that I think many people take for With my new found respect for "The Band Geek Mafia" I was looking forward to hearing how the new songs would come across live. As usual, the Voodoo Glow Skulis Delivered the good as only they can. Is it punk? Is it ska? I don't know, but I love it. The brothers Castillas and company sure do put on a good show. From the opening notes of "Human Piñata" to



the encore of "Ugly Stick" their set went off without a hitch. Guitar player Eddle spiced up the old stand by of "Insubordination" with some Van Halen like soloing and he really threw down the mile a minute intro. to

their new songs and each one was excellent in it's own way, including the very un-voodoo like, but catchy as hell "Left For Dead" during which they brought people up on stage with them to sing and dance. They write a lot of songs about high school and allenation, but whatever they've gone through in the past, it looks like the band geek mafla is having the last laugh.

Chixdiggit Fluf

October 30th at Club Mesa by Dug

Take eight beat-up pool tables, an old school bar, a juke box full of hardcore and alternative, a living room sized dance floor with a tiny stage and drop it in the middle of cholo heaven. That's Club Mesa, the surreal venue planted in a '50s-era strip center on the run down end of 19th Street. It was the perfect place to take in the Chixdiggit and Fluf show Saturday night. The bands were just finishing up a west coast tour together and looked like they were ready to have some fun.

Chixdiggit, from Calgary, Canada, played first to the couple of hundred or so fans who packed the tiny club. KJ Jansen, the lead singer, pulled out all the stops and put on a show worthy of the Collseum. The band was nonstop energy, power guitar poses, fists pumping in the air and pseudo metal hair tosses that would give a headbanger a sore neck. KJ knows how to play to a local crowd, shouting out Costa Mesa no less than 72 times in a 45-minute set. He also knows how to get cooperation, delivering thanks and rounds of applause to the sound man and Scott, the band's accountant, half a dozen times. Good sport that he was, he touted Fluf over and over again as the greatest band in the world.

Chixdiggit played "Gettin' Air" (the band's snowboard anthem) early on and cranked out classics like "I Feel Like Jerry Cleaver", "Ohio, Home of the Whuppin" and "Coke-aholic". By the time the band reached the end of its set, KJ had everyone on their feet singing "Hip-Hip-Hooray" and "I Wanna Hump You (Costa Mesa)". The guys then came back for an energetic encore with their latest single, "Chupacabra".

After a lengthy set-up, San Diego-based Fluf took the stage. Unfortunately, the crowd had dwindled to about fifty people. Maybe because it was late and the end of the tour, but the band's set was less than anti-climactic. The biggest drawback with Fluf is the lack of a true lead singer. O, who is responsible for vocals, growled out the lyrics as best as he could, but you couldn't tell one word from another. Fluf's musicianship is excellent—tight guitars and pounding beats — but without a strong singer, they sound like Rob Zomble's Jazz band. Fluf has a huge San Diego following and can write good songs, but to put them across, they really need a better singer.

All in all, it was a fun show, if just for the chance to play pool in a bar with real neon.

LOS INFERNOS BLEEDERS PUSHERS SHUTDOWNS FURIOUS IV

11/7/98 @ THE BARN By Jaymes Mayhem

Well the evening started off on a pretty shitty note, I left my pad at about 7:30 p.m. so I would be sure not to miss a moment of this show. Thirty minutes plus and two Mountain Dews later I arrived at The Barn at about 8:00p.m. having to pee Ilke a race horse. I thought to myself, "Do I take my Jacket In? Naw, It's gonna be a damn sweat box in there and I am going straight in!" WRONG! I got to the door to find out that the show was running late and that a few of the bands hadn't even shown up yet! I asked If I could at least use the head explaining my situation. The bouncer at the door said

no and that they wouldn't be letting people in for another half an hour! So, here I am standing outside freezing my fucking ass off, which is not helping my dilemma at all!

Finally the doors open, I make a beeline in the door towards the restrooms and my least favorite band in the world blaring over the P.A., TOOL, greets me. This evening is getting fucking better by the second! Good news was I got to pee. At this point even the fact that I finally got to relieve myself wasn't a big boost in my mood! None of the bands had even sound checked yet, they were still waiting for one band to show up and it was almost nine. By this time there was about forty or so people in the place, no doubt three quarters of them friends of the opening bands as they huddled up with their little cliques of rock star-esque groupies and flunkles. I am fucking bored, it's nine, I need a beer and it's too fuckin' cold outside! This is not faring well on the review front!

Finally about 9:15 p.m. the first band took the stage, The Pushers. This five piece punk flavored band thrashed around on stage while the lead singer did his best impression of Johnny Rotten pre his Sex Pistois Mountain Dew commercial singin', cash cow reunion tourin', decrepit ass totin' days. I will say that the drummer and guitarist ripped shit up! The lead singer looked like he was trying to give his mic a blow Job, sounded like it too. So far I have not seen enough to make up for what I had to endure to get this far.

Next up was Furious IV from San Diego. I must say that these guys kicked ass! Their drummer is a madman, a non-Muppet version of Animal if you will. Definite pop punk to the tenth power to get you goin' and help get your ass off the ground! These guys scored BIG points with their cover of the Go Go's classic "We Got The Beat." They tossed out a stack of stickers of which the one I was about to grab was snatched away from me by some grubby little grommet. The guy next to me picked up a few and gave me two of his, helia nice guy.

Two down three to go. Up next were The Shutdowns, a decent five piece rhythmic sounding punk band. Their lead singer looked a bit like what I think the bastard child of Dweezil Zappa, Dennis Miller and Jello Biafra would look like. The crowd had grown considerably in size by this time and was thrashing about to their heart's content while The Shutdowns cranked out some hard tunes with the help of two biazing guitars, some chunky bass, slammin' drums and powerful vocals. Okay, it's getting better, but we still have one more band to endure until the main event.

A lanky looking guy in black leather pants, a black cowboy hat, and sliver Eivis shades summoned the masses from the outside like a pastor at a Southern

Baptist service, "Come gather children!", he preached to the crowd. The Bleeders had taken the stage. They then busted into a hybrid of rockabiliy, punk, psychobiliy that was thick, dark and greasy. This shit fuckin' rocked! Mash up equal parts Social D, Deadbolt and The Rev and you have The Bleeders.

The lead singer was a stone cold plmp, Elvis on LSD personified for the new millennlum with a style and flair to match! I was blown away! This five- piece outfit powered out some of the best tunes I'd heard all night, I was into it and so was the crowd! A huge, ominous, thrashing pit erupted out of nowhere like a twister in a trailer park tearing up everything in it's path! These guys pumped out some stompin' ditties singing the praises of Evil Kinevil in "Viva Kinevil" and the power driven 'Jesus in the Streets." Karate chops, kicks, killer vocals, blazing guitars, bass, flyin' drums, these guys have it al!!

So hyped up after that I ventured out to have a brew and struck up a conversation with a most interesting, intelligent and alluring female about music, the scene and what not. I'll be damned if this evening isn't getting better by the fucking second!

Finally, Los Infernos came in and tore the roof off the Barn! Whipping the crowd into more of a rabid froth

than they already were from The Bleeders, the crowd exploded into the largest pit I had seen yet! The place was a sea of thrashing bodies moving to the amazing guitar and bass work, furious drums and heliaclous vocals. Playing a blend of new material from their yet to be released new full length album on Dr.Dream Records, some old favorites and a few crowd requests. All in all amazing as always!!!

CHANNEL SIX OD RELEASE PARTY WITH

Simply Kung-Fu Decapitones Low Pressure Rx Bandits Channel Six

Sept. 25th @ The Barn By Jaymes Mayhem

Well another fun filled trek out to The Barn at U.C. Riverside is what this night held in store for me, so I hopped in my car and did the thirty minute trek from the 714 into 909 country and let me tell you it was well worth it!

I arrived a bit late and caught the end of Simply Kung-Fu's set, but let me tell ya what I heard was simply stylee! This plece pop punk band from the LBC just kicked ass! I really wish I had gotten there earlier to catch the whole set, but better late than

After mulling around the crowd for awhile in between bands I met up with the guys from Simply Kung Fu and shot the shit for a bit. Very cool guys and a very cool band check them out if you get the chance.

After some floating around I ran into a few other assorted people, including the ever so egotistical Tazy Philips of Ska Parade fame, which proceeded to gush on and on about the radio show and the stuff he has upcoming...GACK! He went as far as to call the Ska Parade the Peel sessions for the 90's. PUH-LESE!!!!

After another beer and a few Tylenol to recover from my encounter with Tazy, The Decapitones took the stage with a fury! These guys know how to pump out ska with a vengeance! The crowd thrashed about as they powered through most of the material off their CD and threw in a few crowd pleasing and damn funny covers I might add, Elton John's "Rocketman" and The Backstreet Boys "Everybody".

Low Pressure performed next and I have to say that I was anticipating seeing this band as this was Low Pressure's farewell performance. Jackle O had the crowd at her command as they hung off her every word and lyric. The band was exceptionally tight and having seen them on several occasions I can say they never sounded better! At one point Jackle was taking requests from the audience as to what songs they should play, I am Just glad I got to hear "Child Of Distinction" live one last time.

Rx Bandits were up next and they managed to get through their set with no lack of energy and enthuslasm. They thrashed about on stage as the really got into this pop punk band, but to be honest I just wasn't into them. I've seen them before, but for some reason I just wasn't there tonight.

Lastly, Channel Six took the stage. Unfortunately It seemed as though most of the crowd had thinned out by this time, but their loss! Channel Six absolutely rocked! This eight piece band that incorporates punk, reggae, funk, pop and more absolutely blew me away! The band grooved their way through most of the offerings off of the new CD including their cover of Bad Religion's "American Jesus", a duet with Jackie O on "Waiting" and an absolutely PHENOMENAL drum solo by Mr. Joe Lopez. I can say that the show ended on a truly high note with Channel Six and a stage full of people including members of Low Pressure doing the cut "Rastaman". I left on a definite good vibe and no it wasn't the buzz from the beer, it was a genuine good time.

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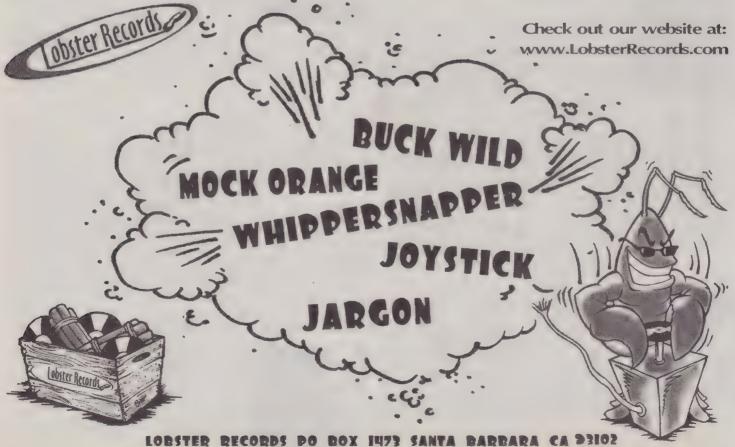
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SKINLAB EYESORE EP CENTURY MEDIA

Hailing from San Francisco, Skinlab has been around since 1995 and released their first album, Bound, Gagged and Blindfolded in mid-1997. This new limited edition of 5000 EP is used as a teaser for the band's upcoming album in 1999. Eyesore consists of two new songs, "So Far from The Truth," and "Noah," a cover of Brujeria's "Raza Odiada (Pito Wilson)", one original demo and a live track. Skinlab is essentially a Fear Factory clone band that has a touch of Neurosis and Korn thrown in to give the impression that they have created a new sound. I am sorry to report

they have not. This is the same extremely pumped-up lead singer, yelling about nothing over razor blade guitars and samples. The problem is that the band just isn't convincing, and relies solely on cliches throughout this EP. We have all heard this type of record a hundred times, and unfortunately for Skinlab, much better. If this is your cup of tea, it does have good production and is acceptable overall. However, do yourself a favor and pick up Neurosis' Enemy of the Sun and Souls at Zero. You will get a thorough education about this musical genre, as well as two classic albums.



THIRD HARMONIC DISTORTION S/T MORPHIUS RECORDS

Can you say Stanford Prison Experiment? I knew that you could. And I know that Third Harmonic Distortion can say it too, in fact that's what their self titled release screams, is "Stanford Prison Experiment!". This is not a bad album, by any stretch of the imagination. All the instruments are played intricately and with precision, they shift tempos seamlessly and the vocals are thought out and sung with a great deal of passion, but it all just absolutely reeks of Stanford. I give them the utmost respect for trying to do something a little different, but they only managed to rehash what

the guys who are and have been doing it differently have already done. Did that make sense? I hope that this isn't the start of a bunch of bands ripping of SPE, cause sooner or later someone will dumb it down enough and it will be all over the radio and MTV, and they will have left Stanford Prison Experiments cheese out in the wind once again.

-Ty Robinson



JANUS STARK GREAT CIGAR ADVENTURE TRAUMA/EARACHE

Nothing about the name or the packaging of this heretoforeunknown band other than the Earache logo on the cover made me think that this was a CD worth reviewing. But I took it anyway, much to Scott's surprise and skepticism. A good move it was too. Featuring a line up which is the English Dogs with a different name, Janus Stark is even on a different label. Clever disguise, lads. Once again I take a chance and am rewarded with a fine discovery. Janus Stark takes a burning guitar approach to pop music and ends up somewhere between Zeke (especially on the ripping opener Behind

Enemy Lines) and Weezer on steroids. That's right, muscular pop rhythms with fiery vocals and splashes of trippingly hot guitar, giving pop a good name again.

On "Every Little Thing Counts," the backing chorus' are dropped over a killer rocking guitar builds that propels the biting, well paced number to the edge of pop punk. While the production is clean, Great Cigar Adventure never looses its sonic bite, substituting interesting dynamics "Floyd Where Are You?" and musical space for outright noise. The aforementioned is an interesting tract which points to the diversity of Janus Stark, beginning with a Pixies type riff and descending into walls of guitar riffs with crazy Video Killed the Radio Star (Buggles 1979) vocal hooks. Ditto for the following track Dynamo which has a slow, melancholy build only to explode into adark, firing rock crescendo, bass lines and drums lending a sense of relentless urgency. Does the songwriting or the diversity of the sonics (Duty Frees) impress me? Is it the passion of vocalist Gizz Butt, or the fire and flex of his guitars (Barriers)? Whatever, Janus Stark comes out of nowhere to deliver a solid effort in the Great Cigar Adventure. RECOMMENDED.

-MEL TORMENT



VARIOUS SKUNK MUSIC SAMPLER SPRING 98 SKUNK RECORDS

Another comp to showcase the wares of the misfits from Skunk Records. This fifteen track comp (or is it?!?..hmmmm) contains works from some of the better of the Skunk clan. Look for contributions from Del Noah & the Mt. Ararat Finks, a rather stylee take on the theme from "The Big Payroll Caper". The reggae flavored "Mr. Music" from Slightly Stoopid, "RealTing/Babyfather" an absolutely SICK live track from Long Beach Dub All Stars with Mad Lion and some cool untitled offerings from The Ziggens. This comp also includes some nice additions from Filibuster, Falling Idols, and oth-

ers. All in all, a descent collection of offerings from the rank and file of the Skunk army at a price that's just right.

-Javmes Mavhen



THE QUEERS PUNK ROCK CONFIDENTIAL HOPELESS RECORDS

I've heard a lot about the Queers in the past, but this is my first time actually hearing them. This CD starts off great with "Tamera Is A Punk", and has other great punk rock tracks like "Mother Fucker", and "Idiot Savant". I'm sure this band has been pleasing people for many years now. But this CD is mostly made up of extremely poppy punk. This is a solid release, and worth getting.

-Dig



WHERE FEAR AND WEAPONS MEET

REVELATION

Coming out of Florida this is the debut release from Where Fear And Weapons Meet. Since its on Revelation Records there is no surprise as to what this EP sounds like. That's right, inspirational hard-core along the lines of Minor Threat, Dag Nasty, and Ignite with a pinch of Sick of it All thrown in for homage sake. It has all the elements that have become the standard, stagnant Revelation sound: tight, pin-point drumming, fun chanting, and plenty of heartfelt yelling. There is nothing spectacular on this EP, but if you haven't bought the hundreds of other bands that sound like this then it is

passable. By the way, I am curious to know where fear and weapons meet? It must be a really fun meeting place to warrant a band to use the phrase as their name. I know, I know, I just don't have that "hardcore" concern about the world or mindset to understand a band name of Where Fear And Weapons Meet.

-K



SQUIRREL NUT ZIPPERS CHRISTMAS CARAVAN MAMMOTH RECORDS

Well merry freakin' Xmas to ya! Yes it's time for that cash cow of all holidays and what better way to celebrate the yule tides than with the quirky Christmas tunes done up by Squirrel Nut Zippers? Fresh off their last CD release *Perennial Favorites*, the Zippers are back with this collection of bluesy/jazzy Christmas tunes to brighten up that otherwise miserable holiday family gathering. From the silly and sarcastic, bright and cheery to the flowing and beautiful and dare I say it? Yes, even a bit moving (OK! So I am a bit of an emotional guy! SUF MF!) the Zippers have covered all the bases on

tional guy! SUE ME!), the Zippers have covered all the bases on this holiday gem. Check out the funny "Indian Giver", the very picturesque "My Evergreen", the one that got to me "I'm Coming Home for Christmas" and their "zipper-ized" takes on the holiday classics "Sleigh Ride" and "Hanging Up My Stockings". If you have to listen to Christmas music, then at least do yourself a favor and put away that worn out copy of "A John Denver Christmas" and pick this CD up, you'll be glad you did.

- Jaymes Mayhem

where did in put that cd cover?

THE FIREANTS COPING MECHANISM FIRESTARTER RECORDS

I heard the Fireants when they played at Koo's a couple of years ago and liked them, so I was pleased to have the opportunity to review the band's second CD. The press packet that I received contained several reviews comparing the band to Patti Smith, a performer I never cared for -- I was always repelled by what seemed to me Smith's goal to be seen not as a lyricist for and performer of popular music, but as an artist/priestess. The comparison seems to be based on the fact that both Smith and Fireant vocalist/lyricist Skie

Bender and guitarist Kevin Jacobs began their careers in spoken word performance and attended poetry workshops. Hell, so did John Doe and Exene, and they never acted like they were ARTISTS, although their lyrics were always really evocative and well-worth paying attention to. I didn't find the lyrics on "Coping Mechanism" to be exceptional. I thought that quite a few of the songs were overly cryptic, leaving me with a vague sense of dread, but little else. However, Bender's vocals and the very riff-intensive, tight, energetic arrangements are excellent and make this a listenable, enjoyable CD, with a real variety in the sound of the songs. Of the more cheerful numbers, I liked "Long Ago", which has a beautiful melody, "24-Hour Diner", which reminded me of the Doors at their best, and "Evaporate", again, because of the lovely melody. I really liked the percussion on "Manifest" — I hope I can hear that one live sometime. Almost every number has something to recommend it, so this CD is a very worthwhile addition to your collection.

-Wendy Brill



EBELING HUGHES TRANSFIGURED NIGHT ZERO HOUR RECORDS

According to the press release, Bobby Ebeling's and Chuck Hughes' major influences are the Beatles, Tomita, Brian Eno, Atom Heart Mother and "Star Wars". I wasn't entirely sure what to expect here, but I did think it would be lively. WRONG. "Transfigured Night" meanders along in a most lackluster way, one song blending into the next. I mean, this doesn't even have the energy of elevator music. The vocals are strained -- think Lou Reed at his worst. Genuinely tedious.

-empt



PICNIC OF LOVE CD OFF THE RECORD

Anal Cunt has released an acoustic record. That's right, an unplugged record full of love songs. Picnic of Love is guaranteed to be mood music for the mentally challenged, or the disc you play when you want to make people leave. The lyrics had me chuckling, "I want your daughters hand in marriage, I want to push her around in a baby carriage." His falsetto vocals will get on your nerves but most Anal Cunt songs do that anyways. He only busts out the screaming during the last track, the "break-up song, in my Heart... What I find more humorous is that Seth Putnam really likes this kind

of music and probably considers this his best record.

-Reid Fleming



DOPPELGANGER MEET YOUR EVIL TWIN RADIO MAFIA

Finally, a Hollywood band that brings puts brooding in its proper place. Doppelganger brings female melancholy with gothic overtones and a somber approach to an old LA formula, singing about our depression while hiding from the sun. With at least some roots in the LA scene (Pandoras, Slot Rocket) Doppelganger is em fetal smooth as pop goes dark again. With the highly respected but sometimes heavy hand of John X at the boards, we get the guitar echoes and sonic spacing which creeps you out and makes you feel the sadness (Modern Angel) while driving home that familiar old school

Goth. Don't get me wrong. Meet Your Evil Twin is not a depressing work, but neither will you find uplifting sentiments or standard pop anthems. Rather, the hooks come wrapped in layers of darkened surf guitar rhythms supplemented by nice, chewable bass lines "Wasted Ways". Joan Sceline's vocals are cool because they are slightly off at times "Fill My Cup" but always seductive and subdued with a mysterious kind of controlling passion. Don't expect Doppleganger to rock your world, in say, the tradition of 45 Grave or Christian Death, but it's well past time that we had another band to carry forth the genre in a less overt way, sans the garish satanic clown acts. Meet Your Evil Twin makes for good listening when your in one of those melancholy, introverted moods. RECOMMENDED



BABY LEMONADE EXPLORING MUSIC BIG DEAL

It's so bizarre how different an album can sound if it is listened to once, then set aside for several weeks before given a second chance. I initially heard the lyrics, "In the summer we made love, it makes me sad, the chance we never had", and I ejected it from the CD player. "Crap", thought I, as I was almost ready to disrespect this L.A.'s band big time for playing that ultra-light weight blend of hipster pop that seems almost designed to get in tight with the A&R reps at the major labels. But, for all of its smoothness, there are some solid feedbacking guitars and pounding drum beats in the mix, which

counterbalance the tambourine, shaker, piano, and rainstick quite well. If you can hang with those mid 70's style three part lovestruck singalong vocal harmonies (ex. "Lose you") and jangly twelve string minor chord guitar progressions long enough to realize that it takes heaps of talents to make this music, then maybe you'll appreciate the album as much as I did. Baby Lemonade may not have a mean bone in their body, but they still rock.

-David Turbow



PLASTISCENE SEEING STARS MOJO RECORDS

Plastiscene has been playing together for two years and has released one EP prior to this first full-length CD. The vocalist very accurately describes the band's sound as "'90's psychedelic". If you like early David Bowie, Radiohead or the Smashing Pumpkins, you'll like this very musical outing. My favorite number is "Big Wheel", which I found to be the catchiest. I wish I'd had a lyric sheet; I did notice a reference or two to outer space, which seems endemic to the genre. Purchase it if you like the above-mentioned artists and want to try something new



MY FRIEND STEVE HOPE & WAIT MAMMOTH RECORDS

It's a coincidence that My Friend Steve vocalist, Steve Bury sounds just like the vocalist in the Gin Blossoms. And one of the songs, too, "Charmed", is a dead ringer for the Arizona band. However, most of the CD is mellower than that. They called this stuff folk rock in the olden days, and that still sounds right to me. I liked the way the band uses the keyboards a lot; it gives the songs a nice texture. Quiet songs, sensitive lyrics -- not what most Skratch fans are looking for.



LESS THAN JAKE HELLO BOCKVIEW CAPITOL RECORDS

Another great fuckin' CD release from Less Than Jake! Fresh off the Ska Against Racism tour, the long Summer on The Warped tour and two years since their last release these guys finally found time to get a new CD together. Hello Rockview is a great collection of stuff from probably one of the best bands in existence! I don't know why, but every time I listen to a Less Than Jake album I find myself paying closer attention to the lyrics than I do when I listen to other albums. I guess it has to do with the fact that nine times out of ten I pick up stuff from the lyrics that mimics something in my life. With powerful

guitars, bass, blistering drums, a kick ass horn section (sportin' a new trombone player by the way) and vocals that just seem to grab you by the face and swing you around the room! Be sure and check out "Last One Out Of Liberty City", "Theme Song for H Street", and "All My Best Friends are Metal Heads". LTJ is synonymous for giving their fans more bang for the buck and this CD is a perfect example!



DAMNATION AD KINGDOM OF LOST SOULS REVELATION

Go for it headbangers, Damnation AD is back in town with 10 sonic blasts from the East Coast hardcore/grindcore school of tune to D metal. Seriously though, all chicks out of the mosh pit, this is serious shit. Despite the cool graphics package from Revelation, there is not much new from this heavy, and I do mean heavy guitar & drum driven band. The lyrics are angry diatribes against everyone and all, but there is never anything to identify with. Without focus, you can be as angry and honest as you want to be without ever becoming compelling. And when vocalist, Mike Mcternan issues forth his angry

verbal assaults, one is left numbed rather than impacted. With most tracks clocking in at around 4:50, the result is indeed rather exhausting (as the press pack suggested listening experience might be) but only because each track is more of the same. There is more diversity to be found in the drumming than anything else, which might be of interest to percussionists out there Not until you reach track 9 (Wait For A Day) where they dip into a Type O Negative type effect do you get something to remember. While Damnation AD is quite good at this style of grindcore, Kingdom of Lost Souls is awash in sameness. Kind of like shotgun blasts being fired off in the middle of a full panzer blitzkrieg, the effect is lost. NOT RECOMMENDED.

-Mel Torment

think about when you saw them on mtv

HOLE CELEBRITY SKIN GEFFEN RECORDS

Whine, baby, whine! I haven't been following the ins and outs of the Courtney Love phenomenon, but I was as curious as the next person to hear the new Hole CD. I really like Live Through This; I find it so raw and moving in parts that I can only listen to it occasionally.

The subjects Hole explored on that CD – femininity, sexuality, male/female relationships, physical abuse, eating disorders, pain and suffering -- were things I've lived through. Love is not a great vocalist by any stretch of the imagination; she's got a very limited range and an extremely nasal voice, but on Live Through This she

wasn't afraid to push her limits and actually make some kind of ugly sounds that gave authenticity to the anguish she expressed there. "Celebrity Skin" is a different kettle of fish entirely. It's as if Love did to her sound what she's done to her body - smoothed it all out, got rid of the rougher, less attractive parts, but in doing so become much less interesting and bland. Musically, the songs sound very similar in a middle of the road, alt rock way. Love doesn't stretch herself at all vocally; in fact, she just kind of drones. And the lyrics - angst to the max, but of a very shallow kind. In most of the songs, bright, pretty boys crash and burn, wither and wilt, while girls suffer for being bored, beautiful and loving too much - nothing a few good support groups couldn't cure. Not recommended to anyone over fifteen or to anyone under fifteen with a sensible outlook on life.

-Wendy Brill



REEL BIG FISH HOW DO THEY ROCK SO HARD MOJO

I've heard RBF stuff before, but this is the first time I've had my own copy of one of their releases. So I can't compare this album to the past, but I can give you my first impressions of the band and this CD. I like this a lot, songs like "The Kids Don't Like It", and "Thank You For Not Moshing" are great. The lyrics of this album display a lot of resentment of sorts against critics of the band in the past, and basically tells them to fuck off. There's a song with one of the guys from the Toasters, which is amazingly good. RBF is one of the original OC Ska bands, and has had a huge influential impact on most of the

bands since. If you don't own this CD yet, get it.

-Digi



THE ENKINDELS **BUZZCLIP 2000** INITIAL RECORDS

More unoriginal pop punk, made slightly more interesting by some heavy guitar riffage. Lyrics are sparse and refer frequently to tattoos, fast cars, girls . . . sound a tad familiar? These fellows are most likely from Kentucky, judging from the album art and the fan club info address. And I've got to say that Initial did a beautiful job packaging this. Maybe they don't have a lot of punk bands in Kentucky, and this seems pretty keen there. Hey, it's your money.



CRY NOW, CRY LATER VOL. 3 & 4 PESSIMISER RECORDS

Chris Pessimiser couldn't have known how great these double 7"comps. were gonna be when he started putting them together. Fortunately, we can now enjoy them on CD format and be pummeled via digital technology. Great bands from the true under-ground hardcore scene gather together to offer doses of energy and I find not a shifty track on this 30 song disc. DIVISIA, LOS CRUDOS, LOCUST, EXCRUCIATING TERROR, MAN IS THE BASTARD. CAVITY, DETESTATION, CHARLES BRONSON, need I go on? No narmonies, no overproduced recordings, no corporate sponsorship,

just track after track of damage inducing noise. A true underground fan should have all four volumes of these compilations. This will be a classic. Viva la Pessimiser!

-Reid Flemina

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30 AMP FUSE REWIND MELTED RECORDS

This three-piece "crunch pop band", as they call themselves, hailing from Knoxville, TN bring together 10 tracks of mediocre at best songs. On this their third full length release, 30 Fuse Amp has managed to put together a collection of guitar driven songs that power through strongly enough, but yet lack something in the translation. The sound of the band is pretty made up of a mixture of punchy guitar and drums, but in the process the bass lines are drowned out by the combination of the two. There are however a few good tracks on the album, "Carpe Diem" and "Sure Shot" (no, it's not a cover of the

Beastie Boys track of the same name.) I think 30 Amp Fuse is one of those bands you have to see live to get the full measure of what they're trying to accomplish. So even with what they do have going for them, it's not enough to really enough to entice one to rush out and pick this CD up.

- Jaymes Mayhem



ONE HIT WONDER WHO THE HELL IS ONE HIT WONDER NITRO RECORDS

So you don't know who One Hit Wonder is? After listening to this CD a couple times, you'll know that OHW is Nitro Record's hidden punk rock gem. I used to ignore them when I saw their name around before! But this 4-piece melodic power punk band from Long Beach, has proven themselves to be worthy in my book. "Who The Hell Is...", the band's 4th release, hits hard with 45 minutes of pure punk rock for the soul. Put this on your Christmas wish list.

-Die



SINEAD LOHAN NO MERMAID INTERSCOPE RECORDS

Sinead Lohan released a CD several years ago which did very well in the UK, Ireland and Europe. No Mermaid is her American debut, and it came with an especially fulsome press release, which claims that the songs here "... provide[e] a singular and expansive inquiry into the nature of consciousness and the secrets of the heart" and that Lohan's music is "...a manifestation of life's kinetic emotional core." Lohan has a beautiful voice, no question. But I thought the songs sounded all too similar. The theme throughout was love, which got boring after awhile. And the lyrics, though intelligent, did-

n't blow me away with fresh insight or poetry. One song, "Whatever It Takes . . ." was really catchy and extremely radio friendly, but otherwise, I found *No Mermaid* to be unexceptional.



FEAR FACTORY OBSOLETE CD ROADRUNNER

Fear Factory have taken the crown away from Sepultura as the kings of innovative metal and still progressed their sound without sacrificing their brutal attack. While most bands go for the "big dumb metal" formula, F.F. charge forward into technological territory with a heavy assault of guitars complimented by sampling and precise machine-like timing. The lyrics tell the tale of Edgecrusher a christ-like antihero who battles against the technological take over of humanity, while the music provides a soundtrack worthy of being called thinking mans metal. Although, I expected this to be the sell

out record for the group, I find myself surprised at the offering of one of L.A.'s premier acts.



CRUMBOX MAP OF THE SKY TIME BOMB RECORDINGS

Led by Chapel Hill transplant lead singer and guitarist Scott Bradford, Crumbox delivers their second full-length "Map of the Sky" on Time Bomb. They play that brilliant infectious style of pop/rock with sometimes jangly, sometimes crunchy guitars with really smooth vocals, and a piano thrown in here and there, which one might equate to an indie rock version of Michael Penn. The album gives hope to the future of rock music, because it stays true to rock's barest elements, without delving into the realm of that tran-sexual exhibitionist shit and electronica to prove its point. It's interesting,

though, that this band has toured with more aggressive bands like the Toadies and Jimmy Eat World. "Map of the Sky" was produced by Caleb Southern (Ben Folds Five), and has many little up-tempo emotional nuggets about girls like "gravity girl", "fourth of July" and "novocaine". The drum fills and bass lines are really tight throughout the album, and add both punch and weight to the already-crafty song arrangements. I hope that the band finds its niche here in So. Cal.

-David Turbow

-Reid Flemina



LATEX GENERATION BOYS ROCK ONE FOOT RECORDS

Melodic Punk from the New York three-piece Latex Generation. Boys Rock starts unevenly but has a strong smooth finish which will appease most mainstream punks looking for that skatable, standard issue punk release which you grow to love with enough listenings. Luckily, there is a little bit of musical diversity which keeps things interesting, including a Minuternen feel to the opening track, "Laugh it Off." Tidbits of guitar sonics interspersed throughout keep a lot of the songs from falling into a complete three chord merry abyss, especially on the final couple of tracks "Desperosity" and "Mac," with

a surf/sax feel. Plenty of energy is expended via Joe Latex's vocals, and like a lot of bands hailing from the big apple, these guys know how to write about ordinary things in a way that somehow ends up being memorable. Latex Generation is not a bad band by any stretch of the imagination, but like so many bands playing melodic punk, there is, often times, not a lot separating you from the next three piece. Still, the chord changes are strong enough in such burners as "Cycle" and "Campsite" (especially with the bass/guitar offsets) to keep more than a couple of tunes rolling around your head well after you've finished the disc. And that ain't such a bad thing in a crowded world. RECOMMENDED.



WORLD CLASS PUNK ROIR RECORDS

All right let's keep the international festival 'O music groovin' with this re-issue of a comp originally released in 1984. Re- released and for the first time ever on CD, this album boasts 27 punk bands from 25 countries and that's exactly what it delivers. With offerings from as far off the beaten track as Iceland and Greece to the almost obligatory realms of West Germany and Denmark, it's all definitely punk rock. Now the quality of some of the recordings on this CD are absolutely shit, but as the liner notes read, "Some have bucks or backers to let them into a real studio with a real recorder. Others are

poorer than you'll ever be and have recorded on a piece of wax paper with a needle stuck between their teeth." So be prepared to hear the gamut of sound quality and stylings. Though the majority of the cuts on this album are hardcore in nature, they are still pretty fuckin' cool to listen to, even if hardcore is not your cup of tea. Just to check out what other punk rawkers from across the globe are up to is worth getting this CD. Standout tracks include offerings from Ratas De Porao hailing from Brazil with their cut "Parasita," Slips & Sperma from Spain with their ditty "Caos Final" which has an early Misfits kind of quality to it, and from Mexico comes Solucion Mortal with their track "Ni Un Amigo" which the recording is so bad it has to be punk rawk! Other worthy mentions include Zyklome from Belgium, Dezerta from Poland, a kick ass live sounding recording from A-64 originating from Czechoslovakia and B.G.K. from Holland slaps out some damn sick bass lines! So if you're sick of the East Coast /West Coast punk scenes try the international punk scene.

- Jaymes Mayhem



EXCRUCIATING TERROR DIVIDED WE FALL CD/LP PESSIMISER REC

After talks with friends, I am convinced that the vocalist from E.T. is not saying anything that can be translated into English, maybe there are no lyrics at all. Who cares, this record still kicks the shit out of me. Flesh ripping guitar sonics, precise blast beat drumming and vocals that will melt the flesh off your ears quickly timed in short attacks on your senses. Sounding alot less metal that their previous full length, E.T. turn up the hardcore and show that there are more lethal things that kill in L.A. than just street violence. I have not heard anything that has hit this hard since NAPALM DEATH's "Scum

and I doubt that there will be anything to compare to Divided We Fall, for some time.

-Reid Fleming



EELS ELECTRO-SHOCK BLUES DREAM WORKS

I knew that sooner or later, an American band would create an album creepy and moody enough to match the sincerity of Radiohead's, Ok Computer. Without their bio in hand, I did my best to figure out what this album is all about. My best guesses are that the songs are inspired by any of the following: (1) the death of a close friend (2) coping with mental and/or physical illness (3) preparing to die and the metaphorical death of one's soul. (4) loss of an immediate family member (5) dying, illness, and decay in general. I wouldn't be surprised if all of the songs were written from a hospi-

tal bed. The sad narrative songs, such as "3 Speed" are really funny and descriptive reflections about the letdowns of a typical dysfunctional childhood in any suburban American town. The lyrics os something like, "Want a pony and a birthday cake, want a party with a scary clown, kneel down and bow to the princess, kneel down for the queen of the town". On "Cancer For The Cure", E sings, "The kids are diggin, up a brand new hole, where to put the deadbeat mom, grandpa's happy watching video porn, with the closed-caption on and father knows best about suicide and smack, well, hee hee hee." This album easily wins my vote as one of the top albums of 1998.



NOODLE MUFFIN TEASPOONS OF SIN FYOOG STATE RECORDS

Noodle Muffin, a West L.A.-based band, plays good old garage-style rock, with sitly, vulgar lyrics — kind of like the Monkees meet the Vandals. We're talking song titles like "Withered Hand", "Eat My Stool", "Herpe the Love Bug" and "Lesbian Love Chicks". I clidn't think the song lyrics were quite as funny as their titles. Musically speaking, I liked the harmonica on "Stoopid", and "Bacon" sounded like a White Album era Beatles number. I'd give this a B- if I had to give it a grade.

-empty

-David Turbow



DEAD LAZLO'S PLACE LONELY STREET NEW RED ARCHIVES

Listen to almost any Fearless Records compilation, and chances are the heaviest band on the whole thing will be Dead Lazlo's Place. Perhaps one of the best at making punk metal which isn't condescending nor compromising for a trend du jour effect, this veteran band finally got their shit together and released the debut Lonely Street after ten years of scrappy singles, split 7's and too many compilations to mention. Lonely Street is a fast, thick sounding, twelvetrack effort that, for all its heavier aspects (thick smooth guitars, thudding bass and fat kick) always manages to move Lonely Street.

the opener clocks in at 1:46). The drums are always driving and churning, and while Gizz Navarro's vocals aren't over the top in terms of roughness or shrieking anger, they have the fire and passion to make you feel (P.B. & J), Moment of Clarity, Three Sheets). Don't get the wrong impression about Dead Lazlo's Place, as they end closer to All than to Metallica on the metal scale. What probably makes Lonely Street a worthwhile effort (it would be an impressive debut if they hadn't made us wait for so fucking long) is all the production. Distorted vox here, acoustic guitars giving way to full bore roar, a little slide guitar (!) in Broken Shell over there, a sound bite drop there. Plenty fire and wallop here to satisfy the core punk in you and make you want to turn it up real loud (easy! Watch the furniture!) but enough touch to make Lonely Street stand out from the crowd. Headbangers you've met your match. HIGHLY RECOMMENDED

-Mel Torment



HOTDOGWATER COCKTAIL ACME ENTERTAINMENT

Songs to make ALL and The Descendants proud is what this CD is made of. Full is a very cool little three-piece band (I sense a trend here with the three-piece band thing) that manages to put together all three aspects of the band and use them to their full potential. I guess the band has even had some interest from a few of the guys in ALL and Descendants as well. Listening to this CD you get the same feel as if you were listening to something from The Descendants as Full pulls through thirteen tracks of

punk rawk that just leaves you wanting more. Stand out tracks include, "The 'P' word", the absolutely raging "Music Critics" which blasts. What else? Music Critics! Also check out "Pepsled" for the gearhead in everyone, and "Sister Golden Hair." So if you are a fan of the Descendants and/or ALL, then you won't be disappointed by this CD and even if you're not a big Descendants/ALL fan. This CD still rocks!

- Jaymes Mayhem



DOME TRILER OF PUZZLE ZOO PEOPLE SLAP A HAM RECORDS

Gasp are the musical chameleons of the hardcore underground. With each release you never know what to expect from them, either crushing grind or noisy hardcore. Their new full-length shows them expanding even further, I'd call it hardcore powerviolence psychedelic experimental space grind. Each song varies and is more perplexing than their song titles. Still there is musical format and even if one song is too noisy or experimental for ones tastes, the band always comes back to some form of musical violence that will appease the hardcore fan. Probably one of the

most surprising releases from Slap a Ham for it's originality and approach. Gasp, once again blow me away

-Reid Fleming

draw weasel here:

SCREECHING WEASEL EAT

It's a new S. Weasel record, and I'm having trouble finding any-thing that separates it from past records'. The material is supthing that separates it from past records'. The material is sup-posed to be "new" but I keep hearing riffs that I have already heard on their previous records. Now before you go freaking out and start throwing your skateboard at me, I am a fan of these guys o.k.? Don't get your panties in a wad. But Christ, c'mon Ben you can do better than this. "Major Label Debut" was great but I just didn't think this measured up to any of their previous records. Still, a "bad" Screeching Weasel is better than a "good" Blink so

get this if your a fan, but don't expect much.

-Reid Fleming



JUMPIN' JIMES THE ROCK! THEY ROLL! THEY SWING! **GALAXY RECORDS/UNITY LABEL**

This seven piece swing band (or swingabilly as they like to be classified) absolutely cooks! With overtones of Louis Prima and Gene Krupa, these cats know how to swing with style and rock the house down to the foundation! Fourteen tracks of hot guitar, slick bass, cool horns, and hopin' drums to keep ya movin' and all the while Mark Anthony Tortorici's vocals wrap up the package nicely! Check out "Jump n 'F", "Swing Shift" and their covers of a Cheap Trick tune "Hello There/Rock The Joint" and that KISS standard "Rock and Roll All Night" (which they actually played for

Gene Simmons at his B-Day party.) You can check out these palookas every Sunday at The Derby, so go put on yer wing tips, snap up the CD, and then make the scene to get the low down on these cats in the flesh! Dig it baby!

- Jaymes Mayhem



VARIOUS HOOKED ON SKA-NICS JOHNNY BRAVO RECORDS

Comps, comps, and more comps! Everyone and their mother seems to be releasing a comp album of some kind and in some cases that's the way to go, as in this case. Hooked on SKA-nics offers 24 tracks from some of the best ska bands around! The cool thing about this comp is that instead of re-hashed tracks that have appeared on 300 other comps, there are actually quite a few previously unreleased tracks and previously unreleased versions of songs that make this comp worth picking up. Definitely check out the Code Name: Rocky track "My Boss Sucks", a live cut from My Superhero, and a different version of "Troubled Times" than is available on Channel Six's

latest release of the same name. Other great bands on this comp include Grovers (R.I.P.), Jeffries Fan Club, The Bruce Lee Band and Abducted. So, go out and drop the six bones that this comp is going to run you, it's worth it!

- Jaymes Mayhem



CONSPIRACY OF THOUGHT **AMERICAN DREAMS** CONSPIRACY OF THOUGHT MUSIC

Take Creed, Rage, and Tool, add vocals that mimic Zack De La

Rocha on helium, water the whole thing down heavily and you have Conspiracy of Thought. This band is about ten years too late. The Sunset Strip is that a way, Gazzari's is closed and Motley Crue is dead. Thanks.

- Jaymes Mayhem



VARIOUS ARTISTS FIVE YEARS ON THE STREETS VAGRANT RECORDS

At first I thought this CD was just a ploy to use bands like Face to Face, MxPx, and Blink 182 to buy a sampler so they can be force-fed some Vagrant bands. Which may be the case, but who cares if it's good, right? This CD holds more to be a testament of Vagrant more so than anything else, they include a heartwarming mission statement declaring more or less "when running this label becomes a job, we'll quit". This sampler has song released on Vagrant over its 5-year history, as well as some unreleased songs. Other bands on this you might want to check out are

Automatic 7, Boxer, and The Hippos.

-Digi



SOUTH THE POLITICAL FALL/WINTER 1998 COMPILATION SOUTHERN/TREE/POLYVINYL

Brought to you by Southern Records, Tree Records, and Polyvinyl Records is a collection of 12 emo/alternative tracks put together with love and tender care for only 5 bucks. It's quite a package with bands like Very Secretary, Sean Na Na, and Beekeeper who all break through generic emo-barriers adding a new flare to the sometime monotonous, stagnant "emo" sound. With bands such as Braid and Polyvinyl's rookie, American football- you can't go wrong. All hree labels bring to the emo forefront great bands with musicians who write and produce sold, warm, intelligent songs that'll even-

shake up those cynics out there

-Tomas Espri



THE BELL RAYS LET IT BLAST VITAL GESTURE RECORDS

Holy Christ! A Los Angeles soul-sista female fronted, hard-driving, bottom heavy rawk-n-roll band that may shake up ole' Jimi Hendrix outta his grave. The vocals are so good -I mean Aretha Franklin/Motown Records kind-of- good that I got blown away as the first word was sung out my speaker. "Changing Colors", the ballsy "Kill the Messenger", and "Testify" are a few of my faves. However, there's plenty to go around with sixteen tracks piled high with soulful rawk-n-roll pounding. This reaks of amazing vocal talent and makes this band a huge contender to be the next signed Los

Angeles band. Big things for these catz in 99!

-Mike Empstein



MLR-1 MARY'S LOUNGE RECORDS

So, you thought there was nothing in Buffalo besides the Bills? Well, my friend, there happens to be a thriving indie music scene apparently. And this compilation covers the whole gamut, ranging from pop-modern rock-jazz-funk-alternative-punk. Virtually every band (20 total) intertwines a few different genres in their one particular song featured on MLR-1. The only bands I recognized in having a promising future is: Lotusflower with the latin flavored flute-fest, "You Will Find", Unclejoe Bacon's, "Pickin' Up the Pieces", the synth-pop gem, "So Far as Now" by Girlpope, and my absolute favorite-Johnny

Revoting's, pop punk piece "No Way." (Mary's Lounge Records, po box 1462, Buffalo, NY 14213)

-l isa Anista



ALL OUT WAR FOR THOSE WHO WERE CRUCIFIED VICTORY RECORDS

This is a decent metal record that reminds of me of Pantera, especially with all the double bass drum work. The cover art is a cool painting of the remains of the "All Out War" that all the Victory bands keep talking about. I have this theory about the thanks list on a record. If you thank every person you have ever met, they will each probably buy the CD, just because their name is on it. So the band has already sold a few hundred CD's by now. But if you get thanked, shouldn't you be entitled to a free cd? After all, the whole record would have not been possible without you.

-Art Vandelay

VOU don't want to see it

BADAR AL KHAN THE MIXES BABA RECORDS

I am scared of this album. It can only be described as snake charmingelectronica and not in good way. I felt like I was in some bad underground rave nightmare.

-Cecelia Martinez



THE MUTE ANTS THE TERRIBLE TUNES OF THE MUTE ANTS MUTANT POP

This Oregon 4-piece waste no time blazing through 13 tracks in 27 minutes of mature pop-flavored punk wizardry. But don't pass the Mute Ants off as an ordinary puss-pop band, they have a tight hardhitting drummer who drums as if he was in a full fledge punk band and the vocals are sung in a garage rock sorta fashion. Their overall sound is melodic, but not overdone like some of their musical peers. Now, go and get their 3 previous eps (after you purchase this

-Tomas Espri



PODLINK THROWIN BONES MATCHBOX RECORDS

The new Goo Goo Dolls album . . . oops. It is easy to mistake Austin Texas' Podunks sophomore album Throwin Bones for any number of their VH1 contemporaries. The sad fact is, they are just another. Mr. sensitive-ponytail man rock band, whom aspire to be the next Matchbox 20. So much blah, I couldn't bring myself to listen to the album in it 'sentirety.

-Cecelia Martinez



FINE CHINA RIALTO BRIDGE VELVET BLUE MUSIC

Synth-pop creations from an era gone by. That is what Fine China delivers on this four song EP. This four-piece from Arizona puts ogether music that is five parts New Order, three parts Electronic, two parts Final is the parts New Order, three parts Electronic, two parts Erasure and one part Blur. The last two tracks on the album are definitely the best with the Joy Electric remix of "I'm Sorry" and the title cut from the EP Rialto Bridge. Nothing extremely exciting, but pretty good for what they do. If you can't wait to pick up that new New Order album or just have the shakes for some 80's synthpop with a 90's flair, then here is your fix.

- Jaymes Mayhem



SUNDAY PUNCHER FOR YOUR EVERCHANGING WORLD TURNBUCKLE RECORDS

Chaotic harmonius dysfunction in the vein of Sonic Youth come to mind when listening to this indie-rock digital audio slab. For some, unpredictable and jumpy would be considered bad qualities for an artist, but it that's what Sunday puncher is all about. They throw change-ups and mix up moods like a windmill in storm season. The band must have had a blast in the recording studio with all the diverse pedal settings and off-tunings they manipulate into the mix, sometimes layer upon layer. Most fans of Radiohead, Pavement, Sonic Youth, or Sebadoh would get wired to this inventive and com-

plex musical production. Costa mesa locals, Radar would get wet upon listening to for your everchanging world. Two thumbs up.

-Scott Presant

not another one!

FIENDZ COLE **BLACK PUMPKIN**

It's not even worth arguing the fact that the Fienz can write damn good hooky songs rightfully mastering the art of playing pop. Jerry Jones and company know the secret recipe and have been using it since '85. Cole is along the lighter side of pop with an appeal to those young girls bobbing their heads in the front row with delight. The Fienz are getting older, but not necessarily wiser. Borderline mainstream tracks on this album may rob the Fienz of some loyal or potential new fans. Still, this is a good album.

-Lisa Apista



I AGAINST ! HEADCLEANER **EPITAPH RECORDS**

Holland's I Against I are on the verge of becoming monumentally successful. In fact, they are on the edge, looking over, ready to jump. With their debut release "Headcleaner", I Against I is challenging the sound and feel of punk rock. Inspired by bands like The Dead Kennedy's, Bad Religion, and the Descendents, IAgainstI have put together an album that grips you from the very first moment and holds you comfortably tight till the last song fades out, and then leaves you wanting...begging for more. Starting with the excellent "Maybe Tomorrow" | Against | blends traditional three chord rock with

provoking lyrics and the incredibly melodic voices of Ronald Van Maron and Bob Hoorweg, which have the ability to display longing and dissatisfaction (you wanted to get somewhere / but you used your friends to hitch a ride / now you've reached that somewhere but you feel so alone there every night) in a single breath. The tunes on this album are simple and straightforward and have a pow erful seamless feel to them. Songs like :Top of the World" and "Stumble and Stare" are sure to become crowd classics, while songs like "Time" will make them famous.

-Cecelia Martinez



SUPERMAN CURL SOUNDCHECK SELE-TITLED

Oldies on acid! Superman Curl plays some good old fashioned rock and roll, with a bit of a twist. The best way to describe their sound is Everclear meets the Beach Boys. The music stays simple at most times, making it fun to sway your head and sing along to. Most of their lyrics are about girls, but they also have some other songs like "I Hate Punk Rock," and "I Walked With A Zombie." They even have a song "Trainwreck," that has kind of a surf rock vibe to it. I think the best part of their music is the background vocals, which are sung by every member of the band (even the drummer). And when done cor-

rectly, background vocals can bring a whole new life and energy to music. This is the perfect album to pop in, while having an all American family barbecue.





BANE HOLDING THIS MOMENT EQUAL VISION

First off, this band features members of Ten Yard Fight and Converge. So they already have one strike against them. Not because there is anything wrong with those bands, but because people only need to be in one band. I hate all these pointless hardcore "side projects," that feature "members of (insert your favorite band here). You should be happy that you already have one successful band and stop polluting the scene with excess noise. The music is fast, slightly metallic, slightly melodic hardcore, similar to Ignite. The "operacore" vocals are off key and annoying.



THE WAYOUTS BETTER DAYS HARMLESS RECORDS

The Wayouts play seven songs here. Emocore. YES! And all is good, from Erik's vocals to McRae's great drum coordination to the creative bass lines and moody guitar riffs. Yes, all is good. The entire album flows very well (unlike this review) moving along at a perfect pace without leaving the listener with that emo-overkill drowsiness type of feeling. Good things to come from this four-piece. You can count on it.

-Tomas Espri



UNTIL YOUR HEART STOPS HYDRAHEAD RECORDS

Until Your Heart Stops is putting it mildly. I had to recover after listening to this offering of songs off Cave In's current release. Most of the songs have this doomsday-ish attitude that is kind of interesting, in that there seems to be a lot of thought substance behind the lyrics without the typical "everything sucks" statements. Equally surprising is that almost every song is full of lyrics that read like poetry. "The knot that never comes untied / leaves feelings I know someone else has lied / about who you are and what you know / the

whitest lies are blinding snows"). The only thing marring the music, is lead singer Steven Brodsky screaming his way through the lyrics, making them seem secondary and their message nearly impossible to discern or appreciate.

-Cecelia Martinez



JOHN MARTYN THE CHURCH WITH ONE BELL THIRSTYYEAR

am still reeling from the fact that I didn't loathe John Martyn's "The Church With One Bell". Although I'm not the biggest blues fan, I found this album quite listenable. Martyn has created the kind of album that has a nice cohesive finished feel to it, where each of the songs contributes to a certain mood. From the piano introduction on "Strange Fruit", to songs like "Gods Song" and "Excuse Me Mr.", Martyn creates this electric atmosphere that reminded me of melancholy white trash bars where people go to drown their sorrows, and listen to albums like this.

-Cecelia Martinez



EX-FORK WHAT'S NEXT TOMORROW? COOL GUY RECORDS

Born Against meets His Hero is Gone. There, that was quick, and perfect for quoting in a Cool Guy ad. OK, I will continue. Lots of screaming always helps. And it is nice to hear some hardcore minus heavy metal! The overall sound could be a little thicker and the bass is kinda weak. The layout just plain sucks. As a general rule, if you can't understand the vocals, you should make the type legible, so we can a least read what they are saying. The cover is a scan of a Thomas guide and the rest is a weak cut and paste job that is probably supposed to look punk.

-Art Vandelay



STILL DREADFUL SIX SONG EP SELF-TITLED

With a name like Still Dreadful, I was expecting to hear some great music, however I was mistaken. Still Dreadful mixes the heavy music of Korn, with an unoriginal one beat punk sound. The result is an album, that's not quite definable. It's not good hardcore music, and it's not good punk rock. Although this band is trying to pump your blood up, nothing about this EP made me want to crank the volume and just go crazy. I don't know what they sounded like before this EP, but if this is what they sounded like, then they really are Still Dreadful

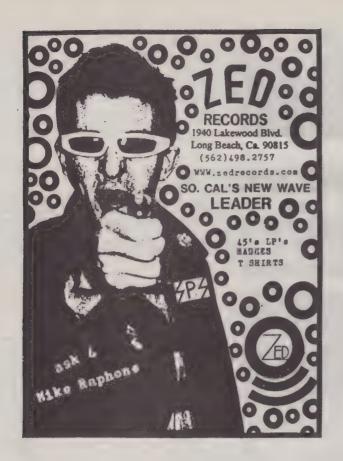
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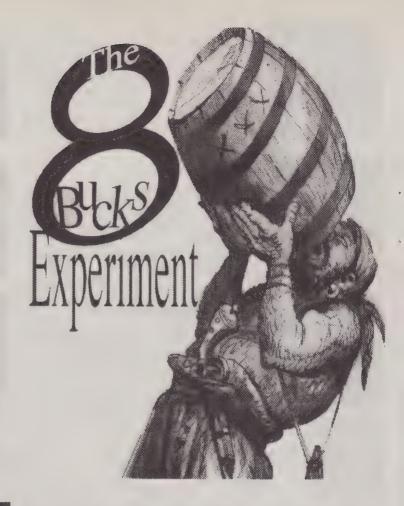


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-Art Vandelay





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THICK



TOM RACER THE SECRET'S OUT RISK RECORDS

Yes, The Secret's Out about Tom Racer, an excellent power pop band based out of Pasadena, CA. Lead singer, Jon, is only 19 years old. He used to be in a band called Pushstart Wagon. Jon and his brother Mike formed Tom Racer with a neighbor of theirs, Erik Newton. The influences they cite are everything from Supergrass to the Pixies. The song, "Sylvia" is about the neighbor girl who sits in her apartment all day and gets the band busted for having rehearsals in their garage. "Drag" is about you guessed it, girls. "Never Make A Sound" is about, uh, music. Some of the lyrics are

difficult to decipher because the drums and bass are pushed up high in the mix (a rare treat), but I think that I caught something about a van crashing or something. Ouch. This is a very solid album, which is probably worth getting, if you have the dough. I like those big old tight punchy bass slides, mang.

-David Turbow



AGENT 51 RED ALERT ALPHABET RECORDS

Around since '95 and hailing from the land of 619, Area 51 kicks some major ass with this little release of punk rock proportion! I ain't gonna B.S. ya and tell you that I know the gambit about these guys, truth is I had heard of them but never heard them, until now. As the saying goes, better late than never because the nineteen tracks on this CD absolutely rock! With overtones of Rancid, a touch of Face to Face and a dab of early Green Day (Pre-Dookie) at times, Area 51 delivers great sounds with some pretty good lyrics. Though they claim not to be a politically driven band there are a few good hidden

messages, but don't let that put you off. Check out "The War", the ever so poignant "No Way", and "Gather Round" a song that I think says a lot about what people need to do when the world tries to get you down. Everyone should listen to and take heed. All in all, a fine CD, pick it up!

- Jaymes Mavhem



EVERLAST WHITEY FORD SINGS THE BLUES TOMMY BOY RECORDS

Okay, I was confused when I chose this CD to review. I thought it was a blues CD by someone named Whitey Ford. The whole Everlast thing escaped my notice. I also was confused by the photo of a stoutish white guy in a ratty cowboy hat leaning against a battered car in what looks like a rural setting. So I put the CD on, and it's got two bluesy tracks, "What It's Like" and "Today", which are great — especially that slide guitar on "Today". Well, here's the straight info. Everlast is the former vocalist from House of Pain. He was working on "What It's Like" when he had a heart attack, from

which he fortunately recovered. Several of his buddies contacted him about the live music album he was recording – their phone calls are included on the CD – and asked to be involved. So the majority of the tunes here are rap, with vocals by Bronx Style Bob, Sadat, Guru, Sen Dog and Prince Paul. The liner notes aren't entirely clear on who's doing what on each track, which was kind of frustrating from the reviewer's point of view. But what's really important is that this is an excellent CD. The songs really rock, with strong vocals, good tunes and interesting lyrics. Highly recommended.

-empt



TONGUE FAULTY PARTS CANNIBAL CITY REC.

Tounge's debut is a mish-mash of punk-hardcore, with a schizophrenic twist, reminiscent of Bulimia Banquet. And with the vast selection of material on this disc, the band really shows off some premier talent. It is good to hear female fronted punk rock that relies on talent rather than gimmicks and image, yet Tongue's debut is appropriately titled. The thin production hinders the band to take the music to the extreme that they were going for and holds them back. Instead of getting a kick in the face, the music has the subtle effect

of a punch in the arm. Plus the band has fallen victim to one of the cardinal sins of a good punk record-too many songs. The 19 songs provide overkill and dull any effect that some of the best material has by providing a few dull moments. In a better studio, and with some discretion the bands next record could be brilliant. Their live shows are energetic and Liz has a great voice as well as stage presence. Hopefully they can catch that energy next time around, I'll be waiting to hear it.

-Reid Fleming



PEACEFUL MEADOWS NO JUSTICE, NO PEACE ALLIED RECORDINGS

Tired. That is how I felt after listening to this album. This three-piece hardcore band from San Diego has been around since '91 and after losing their original lead singer to the real world (I mean life, not that MTV drivel) decided to press on. No Justice, No Peace is the band's first full length as a three piece outfit and definitely shows that the loss of a band mate hasn't set them back. This CD showcases an inferno of sound that is as relentless in it's hardcore roots as much as the message in their lyrics. Check out, "School Of The Americas", "The Big Bribe", "Hypocritical Punk", "Lust" and "Corporate America

#1.º This CD is not for everyone, but give it a chance and you might be surprised.

- Jaymes Mayhem



THE BOUNCING SOULS TIE ONE ON EDITABLE

The Bouncing Souls rock my world. This EP CD is rad. 8 live tracks and 1 new studio track, "Kid", which will be on their untitled forth-coming full length. Recorded at the Continental in NYC, the sound is great, and The Souls energy is fully intact. This is a great treat from Epitaph to hold you off until the next full-length which should be coming out sometime after February.

-Digi



EVERREADY FESTAVUS FOR THE RESTAVUS COOL GUY RECORDS

I love a band that has a sense of humor and that sounds good to boot. From the word go this three-piece band hits you upside the head with more force than a quick shot of Cuervo 1800! Raw sounding yet well produced songs are what Festavus for the Restavus is made of. The band manages to blend their punk rawk sound with powerful vocals that sometimes mimic that of Tim Armstrong from Rancid with slick guitars and fat bass combined with unrelenting drums, Everneady delivers. The liner notes are a laugh riot, with the cockamamie story of being a part of the "Summer of Love" scene of

the 60's and the originators of the Monterey Punk Festival. With even more outlandish stories to round out the liner notes, the band fills the bill out with enough intensity and energy on their tracks to run my CD player without batteries. Check out the tracks "Bleach Blanket Bingo", "Karama Who?" and "Wasting My Time" which follows through on the sense of humor angle. If you can find this puppy, pick it up, you won't be sorry.

- Javmes Mavhem



THE LUCKY STRIKES SONG AND DANCE LAZY SOB

Smooth and swank are two words that come to mind after listening to the CD by this six piece lounge/swing band from Austin,
Texas. With a mix of sweet guitar, deep bass, sultry horns, and
enhanced by full sounding percussion and the smoothest vocals
I've heard in a while. With vocal stylings comprised of hints of
Tony Bennett and Dean Martin, Craig Marshall's voice is
absolutely amazing and enthralling. The sounds that emit from
this CD just seem to engulf the room and promote a laid back and
downright cool atmosphere. Check out "Things Are Looking Up",

if Marshall couldn't sound anymore like Bennett on this track it would be Bennett himself! Also worth giving a listen to is the hoppin' "Swing Let's Swing" and the oh so sweet "Just Lucky That Way." These guys are the real deal, give 'em a try, pick up this disc!

- Jaymes Mayhem



NAKED AGGRESSION NAKED REGRESSION CD/LP BROKEN REKIDS

Anyone claiming to like punk and doesn't know who N. Aggression are probably lives under a rock. Unfortunately, with the death of guitarist Phil Shoemel we will no longer hear any new music from them while a ton of shitty bands continue to put out crap. Compiled of past 7"s the early work contained on this disc shows the band at it's early stages thrashing along their trademark sing-along hardcore punk. Some of the versions sound better than later recordings and others serve as a history lesson of the bands progression and Kirsten Patches develop-

lesson of the bands progression and Kirsten Patches development as a singer. Songs like "Right Now", "Revolt" and "Smash the State" have already become 90's punk anthems and If you haven't already purchased the original versions on vinyl this is a good way of getting everything in one package. A fitting tribute to a band that has left it's mark on the punk rock scene.

-Reid Fleming



VARIOUS SKA BRASIL AZTLAN RECORDS

All in all, a very cool comp made up of various bands from where else? BRAZIL! Just get past the fact that the songs are sung in Portuguese for the most part, there are some damn fine bands on this CD. For the most part sticking to that two tone ska sound that will surely please any rude boy or girl, the influences of these bands on this CD are easily recognized. I highly recommend checking out "Ska Com Maracatu" by Skamoondongos (which incidentally pay homage to some of their influences by including them in the lyrics' Desmond Dekker, Prince Buster, Bad Manners

The Toasters, English Beat, Specials, and the Pietasters), by far my favorite cut on the album. Also worth mentioning are selections provided by Mr.Rude, and Skuba. Ideally though you can't go wrong with any of the bands on this comp. If you are looking for something new and different for your ska tooth then pick up this little gem of a CD.

- Jaymes Mayhem



THE GERMS LIVE BOMP RECORDS

The Germs are punk rock legends, mostly due to that they were one of the first bands in the LA scene, that the leader singer, Darby Crash died from an overdose which ended the band early, and that they were captured in the infamous "Decline of The Western Civilization". This CD was recorded in 1977 at the Whiskey-A-Go-Go, which was their first show ever. The recording is ok. But when it comes to a classic punk rock performance like this, you should want it no matter what.





In Stores Now!

no cover for you...

SOLAR COASTER SOLAR COASTER TURNBUCKLE RECORDS

There is nothing new or special about Solar Coaster's self titled debut album. The trio are heavy on the guitar rock sound, and often lose track of their vocals, making all twenty tracks seem like one endless, mindless, guitar romp. Songs like "Soft Spot" are reminiscent of indie band Hum, but unfortunately there is such a lack of style, and overwhelming blandness to make this album unworthy of a second listen.

-Cecelia Martinez



GROOVEYARD GROOVEYARD GVC RECORDS

It is obvious that San Diego's Grooveyard is experimenting with a variety of sounds on their six song self titled release. Sometimes it works, like on "TV 100%", where they break from the screaming vocals and incorporate a funky Isaac Hayes instrumental section that reminded me of an episode of CHiPS. Sometimes the deviation from their very typical, "angry man", lyrics is just tedious like on "Pirmp", which drones on for seven long minutes without doing much more than irritating me.

-Cecelia Martinez



THE EIGHT BUCKS EXPERIMENT COCKSTALKING

It would be difficult to neglect that The Eight Bucks Experiment have a dark Seattle Mudhoney sound from the growly vocals to the lo-fi recording quality. Sure, you can lump them into the garage rock genre, however, rockabilly fans would likely appreciate this. Tracks like "Be Righteous," "Box Car Bertha," and "Fear & Loathing" certainly will get one fired up. With an improved recording, "Cockstalking" could really pop with raw energy.

-Lisa Apista



UNION 13 WHY ARE WE DESTROYING OURSELVES? EPITAPH RECORDS

I have seen these guys several times and was not looking forward to this CD. They have a horrible live show full of generic punk. Just because you're not melodic, that doesn't mean that you are hard-core. Also, I have heard rumors that Union 13 are some crazy corporate attempt to hit the "latino" market. Kinda reminds me of Backside, with the monotonous, talking styled vocals. Oh yeah, and throw in a whole lot of Rancid. Cover art is somewhat interesting, but the lack of art on the inside is almost insulting.

-Tyler Bradsworth



SIX BY SEVEN THE THINGS WE MAKE INTERSCOPE RECORDS

Before you think about buying this album, listen to any Radiohead album first. The gloomy, moaning, introspective, no one loves me stuff is gettling old. Lead singer Chris Olleys's high pitched falsetto is irritating and just painful to listen to. Even worse is the droning, drifting, feedback drenched songs that go on forever. The five piece band from Nottingham England has toured with bands like Girls Against Boys and Rocket From The Crypt, but with their dreadful cache of songs they are destined to always be the opening band.

-Cecelia Martinez



WHY? THINGS BURN BEFORE YOU SLEEP... TO N BECORDS

Since '91, delicate, moody, ambient, textured altern-tuneage has brewed from this 4-piece known as Why? Things Burn. This is an album for the Iistener with an extended attention span or the college radio enthusiast-not for the punk world. Great instrumentation here as well as nice complimentary vocals to boot. These boys definitely step up to the plate and earn their mark in the alterna-world.

-Neil denz



CREEPER LOST DOG CONGLOMERATED WORLD WIDE RECORDS

Wow, I really liked this album. There is so much going on within each individual song that it is hard to describe the sound of Creeper sufficiently. They have a great laid-back L.A. sound, with shades of Sublime and Goldfinger poking through. Yet, they also incorporate elements of reggae, metal, jazz, ska and rap, making this not only a diverse album, but also one with an exciting style that keeps you listening from start to finish. With songs like the energetic ska inspired "Creeper Ska". and the Beastie Boys-esqe "Bad Memories", it's just a matter of time before this band wins over a fol-

lowing as diverse as itself.

-Cecelia Martinez



VARIOUS ARTISTS WHAT STUFF BOMP RECORDS

This is a great collection of late 70's LA punk rock bands like The Germs, The Dils, among others. Of course it has some background info on the scene then, and on the Germs. If you are punk, or want to be punk, get this,



WEAKSAUCE MY OWN WALLET

This hardcore punk band lives up to the title of their album ten fold! In a blaze of guitars, bass and drums smashed together with screaming tri-force vocals from the lot of the bunch. Through twenty plus songs, Weaksauce is everything but weak plugging through their songs with reckless abandon, telling it how they think it is and how it should be. Some damn well written lyrics and some damn funny songs that just make you think and others that make you laugh till it hurts. Check out "Shame On You", an ode to the mall slumming, trend following crowd. "Time To Suck", which expresses the dislike

for certain bands and labels that have tainted the scene (according to the band.) The hystericalby funny, laugh my ass off "Marilyn Manson", which opens up with the beginning riffs to Manson's cover of "Sweet Dreams" and then flows into "The Beautiful People" followed by music and lyrics that are less than Manson friendly. Other nuggets include "Get A Fucking Job" and "Too Damn Punk." Even though I don't agree with everything this band has to say, they say it, play it and have the right to do it and do it well they do!

- Jaymes Mayhem

where's that cd cover?

SLEEPING FOR SUNRISE SKYLINE SYMMETRY PLAYING FIELD RECORDS

Has this ever happened to you- you're listening to some smooth music, and you just know that any second now the band is just gonna go nuts, pump up the volume, and just completely blow you away. Well that's what it's like listening to Sleeping for Sunrise except for the fact that they never go nuts. Their songs stay the same throughout. In fact with a few exceptions, the entire album sounds the same. Their style is kind of a emo/alternative sound, which is played well, but if there was some variety. Also, due to poorly recorded vocals it sounds like the singer is severely suffering.

These guys have talent, and have some good ideas - if they get a little more creative they would have had a great next album.

-Oron Maher



LUNG COOKIE NAKED JAIN RECORDS

A CD with a theme -- beer! A large beer on the cover. The band posng with several kegs and cases at The Stag in Costa Mesa. Songs about drinking. Cookie cutter pop punk (or possibly frat punk) with nothing special to recommend it, although if you've had enough beer to drink and it's live, it's probably more fun than it sounds here. Perhaps a booking with Drain Bramaged is in order, or maybe it's already been done and I missed it -- sigh

-empty



GALACTIC CRAZYHORSE MONGOOSE CAPRICORN RECORDS

Straight outa New Orleans, these six musicians work well together, creating a soothing, relaxing acid jazz/ funk sound. In true porno style, this music uses a lot of repetition, and has some odd sounding background noises using the keyboard. About half of these songs are instrumental, and on the other half singer Theryl de Clouet soothes the listener singing sad love songs in just the right voice. Some great tracks on the album include "Hamps Hump," "Change My Ways (part 1 & 2), and "Tighten Your Wig." This album is great for just kicking back, and chilling after a long day of work, or for mak-

ing porno movies.

-Oron Maher

promo, or something

THE DEAD BOYS ALL THIS AND MORE BOMP RECORDS

To quote the CD cover, what you get here is "2 CDs of rare and previously unheard live recordings, 1977/1978". The material was recorded at three different shows, two at CBGB and one in San Francisco. The liner notes speak of the energy and excitement of the band's live shows, as well as how different it was from anything else in the music scene of the time. Unfortunately, I don't think this recording serves the band very well, because the quality is so awful. It sounds like it was recorded at the bottom of a well or something, and poorly recorded at that. If you're interested in the early New York

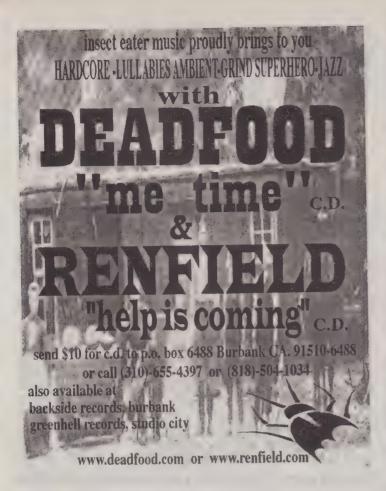
roots of punk and would like to check out the Dead Boys, I'd suggest you go to Black Hole in downtown Fullerton and ask Bill, who owns the store, to recommend the best recording available. He's very knowledgeable about this period in punk, and he'll steer ya right!

V/A "PURE PUNK

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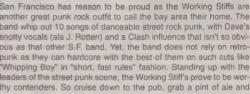
GREY AREA S/T



VICTORY RECORDS Oh, Yawn! Excuse me! All of this pop-punk stuff is really making me sleepy. Grey Area is another band in a long line that thinks the Buzzcocks, Descendents, and the Ramones have never had their style replicated. Their angle, I presume, is that they feature former members of Warzone and Black Train Jack, which gives them a bit of punk rock history, and affords them the right to put out this generic garbage. It could also be that they are a pop-punk band on Victory Records, which is notorious for pissed off bands that like to preach to kids about the world's problems while borrowing every

Slayer riff they can find. Hypothetically, Grey Area can claim, "Hey, we aren't pissed off we just want to have some fun and play catchy, hook-laden Pop-Punk." Uh, please don't. There are way too many bands who play this sound, and putting out a record like this just makes matters worse by pissing off all hardcore kids. Great, so now I can look forward to a hundred more Earth Crisis clones. What a victous cycle with apparently no end in sight. I think I am going to be sick, but at

WORKING STIFFS LIQUID COURAGE CD TKO RECORDS



pogo till vou puke

-Reid Fleming



UNCLE OTTO MEN WHO SMOKE NASTY BRANCH RECORDS

I'll venture a guess that the guys in Uncle Otto listen to a lot of music from the '70s. I could hear echoes of Steely Dan on "In My Bones" - the horror -- I thought we'd escaped the cruel fate of a Steely Dansound revival. "Susan" sounds like a song by Heart. The best number here is a nicely arranged cover of Elvis Costello's "(What's So Funny 'bout) Peace, Love & Understanding" -- a great song from the ate '70s. Vocalist Grant Langston has a nice set of pipes, but he tends to be a bit theatrical in his vocal style. Pretty middle of the road stuff, well-executed, but not very interesting.



SPIDER S/T (ADVANCE COPY) TRUTH RECORDS

Now this is D.I.Y. This CD has been totally created on someone's computer complete with a nice little Avery sticker that has the record abel's logo on it. Amazing how far technology has come! Don't let this cause you to disregard this album from Long Beach's Spider, because it is a solid punk record. It is nice to see bands getting back to the original punk sound of the Damned, Iggy and the Stooges, and the Clash because the pop-punk movement has truly run its course. Spider's album is not very flashy or original as it borrows heavily from the aforementioned bands as well as the Dwarves and

U.S. bombs, but it does show promise through its conviction and lack of ego. The band just plays straight ahead old school punk and doesn't try to be something they are not. Furthermore it is every bit as good as the most of the crap that Epitaph and Fat have been putting out lately.



KID ROCK DEVIL WITHOUT A CAUSE ATLANTIC/LAVA/TOP DOG RECORDS

A major label release for the posing, posturing and self-aggrandizing Kid Rock. Wow, under the weight of that entire image he still busts enough of a move to give himself proper amounts of love and respect. Devil Without a Cause is a major labels greatest dream turn to nightmare. Too awful to be good metal, to forced and ingenious to be good white hip-hop. That highly produced, slick garbage you think is cross over (Devil Without a Cause) is quite likely to blow up without impressing either, no matter how platinum Kid thinks he's going to go. What with the downtown street tough mug under the

bowler, the innocuous Kid Rock steals just enough from Rage Against the Machine to render his tame rhymes meaningless "Bawditdaba", then leans on some small guy to effect Easy E. Kid Rock is best when he plays to his rock card (I am the Bullgod, Somebody's Got to Feel This), but always plays the wack assed rap shit to the point where his posturing ends up like a self inflicted wound. So much yakking, so little to say "Welcome 2 the Party". Even the anger runs misplaced and hollow "Fist of Rage." And what's with the country tunes? No shit, two cowpoke hip-hop jams and one ballad "Only God Knows Why." If you believe the hype, ya deserve this. NOT RECOMMENDED



LOBSTER RECORDS

This is some weird freaking music. It kind of sounds like kind of like Janes Addiction, and kind of like Mr. Marainga, but a little bit differ-Although time changes are frequent in every song, the two alternating singers continue to sing at the same pace, and same volume; which almost makes them sound like a couple of whiners. The best song on this album is "Does it Show," on this song every instrument is playing the exact same notes, and using his snare, the drummer beats to every single note- the result is a loud uniformed

work of art. Most of the songs on this album are pretty good, including the last song which uses a 5 string cello. And in true poetic form, the lyrics are beautifully put together, giving the listener plenty to think about. Despite it's weirdness, this album still has KROQ written all over it

-Oron Maher



SOUL BALLET TRIP THE NIGHT FANTASTIC COUNTDOWN RECORDS

This had to have been sent to Skratch mistakenly, because it ain't even rock 'n' roll. It's jazzy saxophone with some R & B and hip hop mixed in. It's not that bad, but it has the flavor of something they'd be playing in Borders or Barnes & Noble to soothe the yuppie angst of the customers. The liner art is absolutely revolting -- tastefully arranged naked college-looking girls, a couple of others in Miracle bras and skirts, all looking extremely pensive and tinted blue and green. Looking at it made me think of an old Woody Allen short story. "The Whore of Mensa". It reeks of yuppie intellectual poser. Well,

if you like Kenny G, you'll definitely like this. And I KNOW there's a lot of Kenny G fans out there reading this!



LOOKOUT RECORDS

Yes!, Lookout has re-released the Donnas classic first release (and was kind enough to include their singles as bonus tracks too). This sn't similar to the bubblegum rock of their "Rock and Roll Machine" disc, it's the groups lo-fi Ramones-esqe punk debut. Alot of people have said this is their better material and I must agree. Ripping guitar bar-chords and goofball druggie lyrics "Huff all Night" and "Everyone's Smoking Cheeba" too. On this they could be compared o an American Headcoatees and although I like their new material as well, this is better. Fuck Maximum Rock and Roll's comments

about them being Lookout's Spice Girls. The Donnas rule

-Reid Flemina



REEL BIG FISH WHY DO THEY ROCK SO HARD MOJO RECORDS

On the facade, this band makes me sick. Seven dorks in Hawaiian shirts, who still think that it's cool to strike metal poses and who decorate their album with stars and rainbow colors. But I'm reviewing their music, not their image. Like their first two albums Everything Sucks and Turn the Radio Off, their lyrics are still annoying and pointless, with song titles like "Scott's a Dork," and "She's Famous Now." But listening to their music it's hard not to admit that these guys have a lot of talent- they've changed their style since their last album, eliminating some of the straight third wave ska. Don't get me

wrong, the horns are still loud, and the backbeats are still strong, but now the music is much more diverse. They manage to take ska, reggae, punk, jazz, acoustic, and even some alternative sounding stuff, and make it all somehow flow together. The horn players play well together, and most of the horn lines are pretty creative. Aaron Barret even does a good job with vocals, getting loud and soft at just the right times. Just like their second album, RBF redoes more songs from their first album including "I'm Cool," "I Want your Girlfriend to be my Girlfriend Too," and "Big Star." This is an album that most people can enjoy. Even the people out there who vowed never to buy another ska album again might want to check this one out. I guess the old saying is true, you can't judge

-Oron Maher



COUNTERVAIL AN EMPTY HAND FOR A HEART PHYTE RECORDS

Wow, these guys must listen to alot of SLAYER actually I liked this better than the last Slayer record. Total metal-core and as heavy as Rosie O. Donnel mud wrestling w/ ADAMANTIUM, They borrow alot from bands like CONVERGE but still write killer riffs and keep he intensity up all the way till the end. Maybe, cause there is only our songs on this is the reason why I liked it. I didn't have time to get bored! Either way, a good kick in the balls.

-Reid Fleming

pro

MO

SMILE GIRL CRUSHES BOY HEADHUNTER/CARGO

You might think this album is indie rock. You may tell yourself, "It must be good because it's on an indie label, and their first album was so strong. Oh, how you would be gravely mistaken. The sophomore curse has once again reared its ugly head. After their very promising debut album Maquee on Headhunter/Cargo Records (eventually distributed by Atlantic), Smile's latest album, Girl Crushes Boy is a major disappointment. It meanders through the musical stylings of just about every current and past modern rock band including Weezer, the Foo Fighters and Mathew Sweet. Then

there are the ridiculous sci-fi keyboards, sound effects, and quirky lyrics that sound totally gimmicky. Furthermore, the album never seems to get on track. A few shining moments like, " Best Years" and "This Freaky Slowdance," are supported with countless songs that are just horri-There is even the obligatory ballad, "The Scientologist's Love Affair" for you to weep over. This album has more in common with Seven Mary Three, Matchbox 20, or Third Eye Blind than the indie world it thinks it belongs in. Maybe Smile has had some major label brain-washing and is just having a hard time shaking off the effects. However, I would postulate that they are probably a little poorer after their major label fiasco, and have now gone to desperate measures by listening to 106.7 for musical direction.











TWO MAN ADVANTAGE DRAFTED

BOYALTY RECORDS
Dave Smalley produced one big explosive mix here, eh. Two Man
Advantage play melodic punk anthems tackling important themes
such as: pornography, beer, hockey, more beer, and more beer...,
and more hockey. Cute little gimmick-the hockey thing that is, but
more interesting is the combination of one-dimensional down and
dirty old-school like lead vocals and very talented, melodic, on-key,
back -up vocals. Anyhow, it works like a charm and this album is cool
as ice. A two-minute penalty will be called for those who disagree.

-Tomas Espi



FACE DOWN THE TWISTED RULE THE WORLD NUCLEAR BLAST AMERICA

Four swedes hammer away serious metal in the vien of Metallica at high r.p.m. with dark metal vox from your truly, Marco Aro and double bass-thumping from Peter Stjarnvind. Rather than going only one musical direction, Fall Down add a few industrial parts properly and even an acoustic number titled "Autumn Scars." This is a solid album deserving of big props. Those who need a wake-up call, grab a hold of this, fucker

-Neil Den



KILL ALLEN WRENCH MY BITCH IS A JUNKIE D.V.M.P.R

This punk rock-n-roll collection of musical propaganda promotes devil worshipping, drug and alcohol abuse, car theft, and disrespect to woman, and possibly lesbianism in general. Something punk rock needs, a new God. Pop this in and worship your new God, the punk rock God that is, Allen Wrench. Leading the pack of "Punk Rocks most important band" (as they claim) is the devil-horned, vocalist messiah, Allen Wrench himself who doesn't hold back with with lyrics like "My bitch likes do it when she's on the rag" on the track "My Bitch is a Junkie." Other friends and family sing-alongs are

"Goodbye" ("...You must obey, let Satan command you,...") and I want To Date A Porno Star" ("porn stars smoke PCP, porn stars will give you VD, you know when it comes down to it, porn stars like to do it"). With veteran members from The Mentors and Roadwhore you can't turn away from the sheer force of Kill Allen Wrench. This album is mandatory for punk fans and the curious, but the real picture is painted when seeing these fuck-ups live. With plenty of hype and talk locally, Kill Allen Wrench will explode in a worldwide frenzy at the blink of an eye or the firm squeeze of an ass (be careful Allen might grab your girlfriend's!). My Bitch Is A Junkie is not for the weak-hearted. Surely, a contender in my personal top-ten for 1998.

-Scott Presar



DEADFOOD ME TIME SELF-RELEASE

While singing about the Jetsons, drinking 40 ouncers, and Satan, Deadfood switch instruments, musical genre, sample snippets, and moods turning the listener dizzy trying to pinpoint an exact sound. I won't even take a stab at it, other than to say it's a bit like early Beck on more experimental drugs with less direction. Some may overlook this band because of its overwhelming change from the usual cd one would own. Some tracks are more catchier than others, but all have a certain substance to them not easily repeated in music today. As

they keep pushing forward and find more of a focal point musically, they potentially can create a huge following in the hip-hop, techno, industrial, and punk arena. Highly recommended to those open-minded listeners in need of something new and unique.

-Tomas Espri



THE YOUNG HASSELHOFFS WIN A DATE WITH . . . MELTED RECORDS

If the Mr. T Experience had a couple of illegitimate bastard sons they would be The Young Hasslehoffs. The pop punk, do wop trio from Omaha pays homage to their punk rock fathers on songs like "Do You Want My Number" and "Suzy is a Doozy". Despite sounding curiously similar to certain pop punk bands. The Young Hasslehoffs do have a knack for impossibly catchy tunes and cheesy, laugh out loud, high school lyrics "another Sunday without you and I've done it again / I Ate all my crunchberries first and nothing to say in the end."

-Cecelia Martinez

OMORS

THE SLACKERS THE QUESTION

EPITAPH RECORDS

Imagine being on some Caribbean Loveboat cruise. The Slackers would be there playing tunes off their current release, *The Question*. The eight piece band from NYC is reminiscent of bands like The Toasters and Hepcat, with that unmistakable Bob Marley flavor. The combined vocals of Victor Ruggiero and Marq Lynn have a nice quality to them that makes the songs listenable, but there is nothing special to distinguish one song from another, and the album stumbles into mere background music at best

-Cecelia Martinez



V/A SCENE KILLER OUTSIDER RECORDS

So, what do we have here? 19 (unreleased or vinyl only) of 26 old school punk selections from the likes of Snap-Her, Bladder Bladder Bladder Adz, the Authority, JFA, Nashwille Pussy, the U.S. Bombs, and many more. Even though we all are tired of comps, this is quite a solid one worthy of a trip to the local indie store. Highlights are The Business', "Southgate", The Murderers', "Grab Another," and the U.S. Bombs', 'The Way It Ends." Again, a great collectible

-Neil denz



JOHN MARTYN THE CHURCH WITH ONE BELL THIRSTYYEAR

am still reeling from the fact that I didn't loathe John Martyn's The Church With One Bell. Although I'm not the biggest blues fan, I found this album quite listenable. Martyn has created the kind of album that has a nice cohesive finished feel to it, where each of the songs contributes to a certain mood. From the piano introduction on "Strange Fruit", to songs like "Gods Song" and "Excuse Me Mr.", Martyn creates this electric atmosphere that reminded me of melancholy white trash bars where people go to drown their sorrows, and listen to albums like this.

-Cecelia Martinez



THE NEW FRONTIER SODA JERK RECORDS

This cd has one purpose, to share the Colorado punk scene with the rest of the world. 30 trax of punk bands plugging away punk songs (one each) provides some very good punk audio ranging from poppunk to old school to emo-core to even rawk-n-roll. Bands like Qualm, Superbuick, ballsy rock-n-roll/garage rock from Tanger, the borderline emo-core band, Acrobat Down, and the knitty gritty hardcore-punk from Lost Terribles all make for a good listen. This compilation has a lot going for it, that being variety. The only drawback is some of the weaker recordings from a few bands and the horrid-

grindcore garb track from a band called inferno.

-Lisa Anista



THE DISMEMBERMENT-PLAN THE ICE OF BOSTON INTERSCOPE RECORDS

Travis Morrison's vocals on certain songs like "Ice of Boston" and 'Soldier in the Snow' off The Dismemberment Plan's 4 song EP are very Jim Morrison / Lou Reed-esge, and are therefore worth a couple of listens. But for the most part listening to this gave me a headache. It seems like the band is trying to achieve some experimental artsy angle, but hasn't quite put together anything cohesive or interesting.

-Cecelia Martinez



SKAPONE BOLD NEW FLAVOR JUMP UP! RECORDS

Taking ska and swishing it around with a bit of hip-hop, swing, reggae, and punk makes for a good effort for Skapone and an interest ing listen indeed. Unfortunately, the talented six-piece doesn't excel in one genre and never steps up the pace. Instead, the songs, (there's a total of ten) meander at the same pace lacking strong breakdowns or change-ups. Songs like the jumpy "Momma," and "Samantha Clench-Private Eye," are just downright "Breakfast." silly. Bold New Flavor will likely tempt the loyal 3rd wave ska or Moon Ska fan into becoming an avid fan. I'll have to wait for their

next release. Hopefully, it will go the extra mile.

-Lisa Anista



THE WICKED FARLEYS SENTINEL AND ENTERPRISE BIG TOP RECORDS

Not only does Wicked Farleys debut album Sentinel And Enterprise, have a unique blend of guitar and electronic stylings, but it is also anchored by the phenomenal vocals of lead singer Michael Brodeur. Brodeur, whose lovely dreamlike voice has the ability to draw you in and make you follow it through the oftentimes chaotic nature of each emotionally charged song. Particularly good is opening track "That's Fine", and "Even Numbers", which showcases Brodeur's urgent enticing vocals

-Cecelia Martinez



VARIOUS ARTISTS HOTTER THAN HELL: AN INJECTION OF PSYCHOBILLY

CARGO RECORDS

This 27 song comp offering from Cargo Records is not for the weak nearted. Featuring bands such as Los Infernos, Helvis and the Helvettes, Hayride to Hell, The Hooligans, and The Phantom Rockers, "Hotter . . " is an auditory lesson on the progression of the psychobilly genre. All the elements that have fused together to create the sound of psychobilly, from hillbilly, to surf, to punk, to metal can be found here

-Cecelia Martinez



ELECTRIC FRANKENSTEIN HOW I ROSE FROM THE DEAD ... ONE FOOT RECORDS

The cover art by Don Gillies is one reason alone to purchase this fine chunk of punk rock. Thanks to the recording at WMFU radio in New Jersey, we get one raw and rocking experience of the punk rock monsters themselves. A few highlights are "Devil Dust", "Rocket", and "Get off My Back." One Foot Records adds a fine band to their roster here and a must have for the Electric Frankenstein fanclub. Oh and here's a quote for you bio fags, How I Rose From The Dead

Tomas Espri

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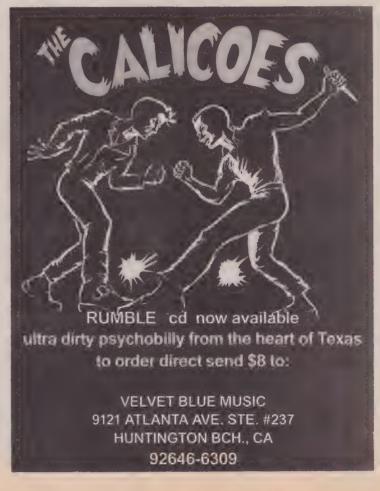


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GREEN MACHINE

MAN'S RUIN RECORDS

Finally, an album that lives up to the horror that its cover depicts. Hailing from Japan, Green Machine essentially provides us with an album to accompany our pure unfiltered anger and aggression. Think Monster Magnet, Fu Manchu, Iron Monkey, and Black Sabbath rolled it one crushing punch in the face. I can't understand a word the singer is saying, but that's not the point. This is an album made of raw emotion and power, with little regard to lyrical profoundness. Essentially the album could be looked at as the resulting soundtrack for the point in life when a person snaps from the

unrelenting everyday disappointments and atrocities of the world they live in.



AN EVENING IN NIVRAM: THE MUSIC OF THE SHADOWS MUSICK RECORDINGS

The Shadows were formed in 1958 in England to play back up for singer Cliff Richards. When not playing with Richards, the band released its own records and had a #1 hit with an instrumental number called "Apache" in 1960. The Shadows music is aptly described in the liner notes as "energetic instrumental rock & roll with a healthy dose of Fender twang." Hank Marvin, lead guitarist, played the first Fender Stratocaster in England, and his playing influenced famous '60s guitarists like Ritchie Blackmore, Pete Townshend, Jimmy Page, Jeff Beck and Eric Clapton. The Shadows never caught on in

the U.S., though Atlantic tried to capitalize on the surf music phenomenon by releasing a record. Broke up in '68, reformed in 73, retired in '90. There have been other tributes recorded, but this is the first tribute by American artists. Half the artists here are veterans of the surf music scene --Davie Allen & the Arrows, the Tiki Tones, the Aqua Velvets, the Falcons. The music is very similar to surf music, but closer to the Ventures than to Dick Dale. The beat is slower, the music more languid and the drumming is definitely not of the tribal, pounding variety that we in America tend to associate with the genre. The various artists do a good job here, but I'd have to say I'd recommend this mostly to those heavily into the surf style music phenomenon and '60s ephemera.



PALPATINE 14 WAYS TO EMBRACE DEATH SLOWGUN RECORDS

Holy guacamole, this is great stuff! Just when I thought nothing good could come from the city of Yorba Linda, (Slow Gun town) this CD proves me wrong. Hey, who cares if they had to go to San Diego to find talent right? Palpatine combine elements of hardcore/emo/punk and wrap it up in a nice festering package to induce a even the most hardcore to nod in approval. Keeping it short and to the point, with screamed vocals and no reliance on the "chugga chugga" metal fac-or. Combine NEGATIVE APPROACH with BORN AGAINST and Palpatine is the bastard child.

-Reid Fleming



ELLIOTT SMITH

DREAMWORKS RECORDS

A friend played some older Elliot Smith for me earlier this year, sayng with tremendous enthusiasm that Smith was a genius who wrote, performed, recorded and distributed his own material. I listened and was not impressed with the lo-fi, whispy-voiced, downbeat product I heard. I have to say that "XO" is much more appealing to me. Smith has supplemented his own reedy voice with back-up vocals from others. He also has added more instruments to several of the tracks, with piano being my favorite here. On the down side, I still don't find him to hold a candle to the likes of Joni Mitchell, Bob

Dylan, Lou Reed, early Bruce Springsteen, James Taylor or Paul Simon in the lyrics department. Also, I have to point out that though his melodies are pretty, the songs are almost uniformly melancholy. So keep that in mind when you're thinking about buying this one. Not for punk fans.



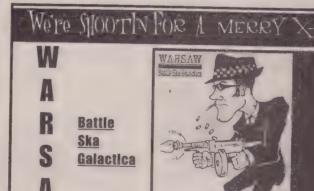
LUNG COOKIE ZYMURGY NAKED JAIN RECORDS

And out of left field, almost completely unannounced, Lung Cookie's solid debut album, Zymurgy offers 16 tracks of solidly well executed punk, of which at least nine of which deal with beer and or alcohol. The cover art features a mini-man in a crumpet/life raft floating in a mug of beer, and the back shot shows the boys randomly tapping kegs in the old Costa Mesa Stag. Anyone beginning to sense the mergence of a theme?

While the need for another alcohol fueled punk band is openly debatable (sic Drain Bramaged, P-Town & how many others?) Lung Cookie neither posts a drunken facade, nor attempts to downplay the obvious drawbacks of such a sodden existence ("Barfly" and " Sorry"). Because the musicianship is so good on this album, the good time feel of most of the songs overrides the obvious shallowness of a lot of the subject matter ("Blindness" avoids this problem entirely). Drunken lifestyles not withstanding, Lung Cookie forsakes punk rock formula for musical diversity that is punk because they manage to convey an obvious passion and fire for life, ripping in such a way that its obvious they don't really care what anyone else may think. Songs like the ripping opener "Just Ain't Me" feature a sick ass bass/drumming combo which never goes away the entire album, and there is enough churning guitars to keep the melody lines alive with energy and fire (Got Away, Useless) even when Lung Cookie is not cracking at breakneck speed. Don't think that there isn't a sense of humor here as well; just witness the subtle irony of the heartfelt ballad of "Beer" with the live SD sample, or the finely honed Jimmy Buffet "Margaritaville". On second thought, forget the cover and rock out to the best track on the disc "Black Water". Heartfelt and core, Lung Cookie speaks for itself on this fine first release. RECOMMENDED

-Mei Torment





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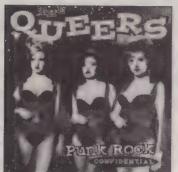
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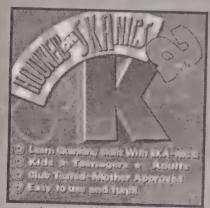
The Skeletones



Quincy Punx

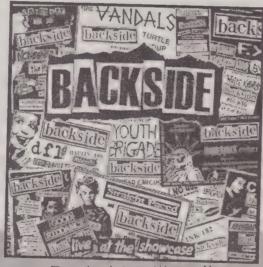


Tank



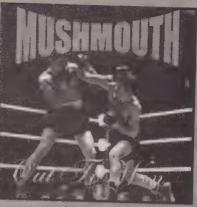
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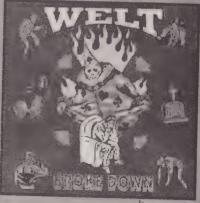
Wankin in the pit



bollweevils

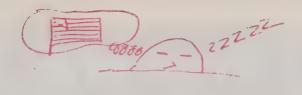


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I'm Still Bored...With the USA by Josh Rutledge

There's nothing glorious about a rocknroll suicide when it happens in your scene. Live fast, die young seems so romantic in theory, yet so tragic in reality. The news that another punk rocker has taken his own life in a drug-induced suicide does not greet my ears as glamorous. I don't see it as another beautiful chapter in the folklore of punk. Instead, I see it as merely sad. I see it as a painful reminder of how precarious the line between punk rock decadence and genuine despair truly tows.

Rock journalists(myself included) tend to romanticize the drug-addled lives of the legends of punk rock, making heroes out of the likes of Sid Vicious, Darby Crash, and Johnny Thunders. At a time when punk rock is rarely dangerous, we see those old legends as immortal

souls who paid the ultimate price. They went "all the way".

But Dicious and Crash were dead long before I ever picked up any of the records they played on. I knew them only as ghosts from the past. But what happens when a young man follows in their footsteps in 1998? I can't see this person as a mythical representation of the glory of punk rock. Instead, I see him as a human being who took his own life. That is not romantic- that is simply tragic.

Although I never was a huge fan of Crash or Vicious, I'm willing to admit that I attach a great deal of romance to punks like Thunders and Stiv Bators. They left behind music that plays a big role in my life to this day, and they left behind legacies as punks who lived on life's edge. They abused chemicals and lived with a self-destructive fury that ultimately killed them both. And the question is whether or not these are appropriate role models for young punks. Living fast and dying young seems romantic when you're 15 years old. But what happens when that fast living catches up to you? While I admire the sense of danger that Thunders and Bators lived with, I certainly don't see pre-mature death as a desirable end. We need to find inspiration in the attitude and the fury that these punk legends exhibited without accepting the dead-end that awaited them at the end of the line. Wanting to be like Johnny Thunders or Stiv Bators can be quite noble in many respects. But there has to be an alternative to the inevitable self-destruction.

When I write with reverence about Sid or Stiv, I don't wan't people to think that I'm endorsing those artists' complete self-destruction. One does not have to be a junkie or commit suicide to be a true "punk". I find it painful to think that there are punks out there who want to follow Sid or Darby's lead. Is Sid Vicious a hero because he killed himself? If so, that's a pathetic reason for hero-worship. If Sid was a hero, it was because he represented so much of what punk rock was about- the anger, the attitude, the rebellion. His early death was evidence that he still left a lot to be desired in the hero department.

Punk rock is such a positive force. It gives hope and strength to people whose lives are a living Hell. When I think about how many lives have probably been saved over the years because punk rock gave kids hope, I see the power the music has. The music empowers you to handle adversity in life. It gives the listener the strength to vent anger and tackle frustrations. But there are two directions that such anger can go in- one can unleash it on society, or one can unleash it destructively on one's self. And that is the danger of romanticizing Sid Vicious or Darby Crash. As powerful as punk rock can be, sometimes it's not enough to make life bearable. This was obviously the case recently- a young punk rocker had enough of life, and the solution he found was to end it all. I don't know whether it is appropriate to blame the romanticization of rocknroll suicides for this man's death. He took the reasons for his actions with him to the grave. But I'll never be able to listen to the records he played on the same way again. I can listen to Stiv Bators and Johnny Thunders and hear them as grand ghosts who contributed to the romance of punk rock. But I cannot see complete self-destruction today as romantic. I only see it as tragic and incredibly sad.

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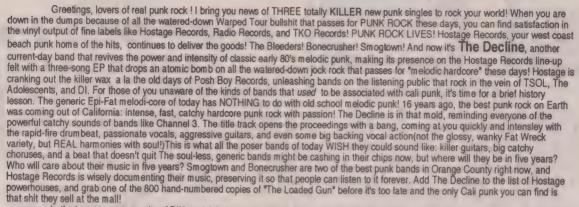








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In the immense community of DIY punk labels, amidst all the dull mediocrity and flat-out barren wastelands of taste-devoid punk rock merchants, exist a few lone souls dedicated to the fine art of producing musical gems. Radio Records is one of those precious, rare labels with a genuine vision of musical qualityy. 1997 brought instant classics from the Radio camp- the raucous on-slaught of The Randumbs and the snotty Pagans-esque roar of The Disappointments). 1998 brought the "Battle For The Airwaves, Volume 1" comp with Bladder Bladder Bladder, Workin Stiffs, etc. Release #4 is another winner, as **The Shifters** are the latest new band to emerge in the ever-burgeoning 77 in '98 underground scene. Like The Stitches or The Humpers, The Shifters kick out the jams in an American-flavored 70's punk manner, with a raw, thick guitar sound and a monster rocknroll beat. Like The Bodies(who have a 7" on TKO and also appeared on the Radio compilation), The Shifters front the big 77 punk sound with pleasing melodic vocals. Maybe the best comparison I can make is to say that The Shifters remind me of The Saints in a lot of ways. They have a Saints-esque guitar/vocal sound and a classic American 77 pace and style. So you don't get the real nasty, snotty, sleazy vocal stylings of The Stitches, but you do get that same powerhouse punk rocknroll guitar sound. Chris and Karen really blast the guitars on the "Mix It Up" EP, unleashing a raw, fiery rocknroll on-slaught of Thunders/Cheetah Chrome-inspired madness. Bands like The Shifters know what it's all about, playing punk rock with a real simple rocknroll style and a vigorous, unrestrained spirit! The title track is a perfect piece of punk rock glory, a rockin', raw, up-tempo, toe-tapping number with buzzsaw guitars, a monster backbeat, and lovely hooks. It's an irresistible blast of fun rocknroll chock full of fyrical images of alcohol, heartbreak, and dying souls in the same beat writer tradition employed by great bands like the Beat Angels and Dimestore Haloes: "The secret to

It's not very hard to pin-point exactly what is so great about **The Randumbs**. Simply put, they ROCK. More so than any other band, the Randumbs represent all the best qualities of the louder, faster hardcore punk sound that emerged in the early 1980's. When I talk about "hardcore punk", I'm not talking about "hardcore" as it's known today. I'm talking about straight-ahead, fast, furious, simple, snotty, angry, in-your-face punk rock that comes out of your stereo speakers like a boot to the head that crushes a skull! I'd go as far as to say that The Randumbs are one of the greatest punk bands in America today. Their music is an unstoppable force- the energy and fury captured on a Randumbs record puts 90% of today's punk bands to shame! They have found the secret of taking the aggression of 80's style punk(the type heard in both 80's hardcore punk and '82 Brit punk) and creating something special out of it, something that packs a killer punch yet does not fall into the trap of sounding too harsh or boring. "Back From Sonoma", the band's new EP on TKO Records, serves up four blasts of full-on powerhouse punk rock that grabs you by the head and shakes you until you are forced to pay attention- the ferocious guitars roar, the beat pounds, and the vocals are delivered with big-time snotty authority. So many bands today are built around an image, yet they back it up with half-hearted music that sounds like a second-rate version of another band. The Randumbs, on the other hand, are built around the forceful, raw music they create. Songs like "Noma Girl" and "Last American Dad" are catchy enough for you to sing along with, even as they chum out the kind of aggression that most bands could never approach. These guys come at you with an intensity rarely seen today. All of TKO's stuff is killer, so look for it all and rejoice in the snotty power of the mighty Randumbs!

I also got a good single from a Costa Mesa band called **Static Age**. No, they are not a Misfits tribute band! They play a snotty, lofi, angry style of punk rock that is raw and crude. Their single is called "Hatred", and it features two songs of mid-tempo old school punk rock with a lot of attitude, sick humor, and crass lyrics. Keep on eye on this band, as they really have the potential to make an impact with their rude, offensive punk sound! Other bands/labels that put out PUNK ROCK records should feel free to send me their releases so I can use this column to let the world know about them! I'm always looking for good '77 punk, 80's punk/hardcore, quality street punk, etc. See ya!

Josh Rutledge, 4027 Old Orchard Rd., York, PA 17402

















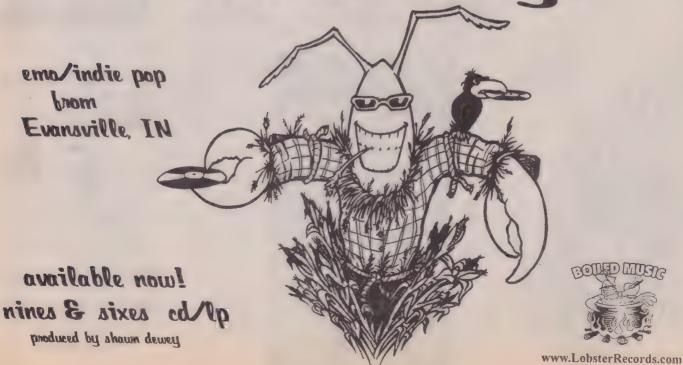








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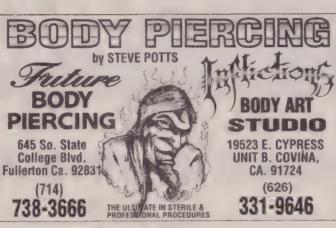


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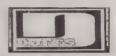
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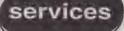
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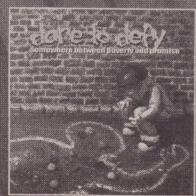
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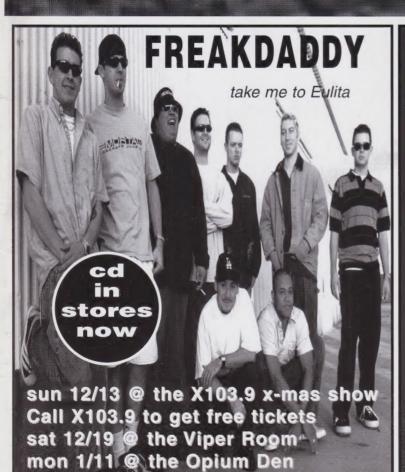
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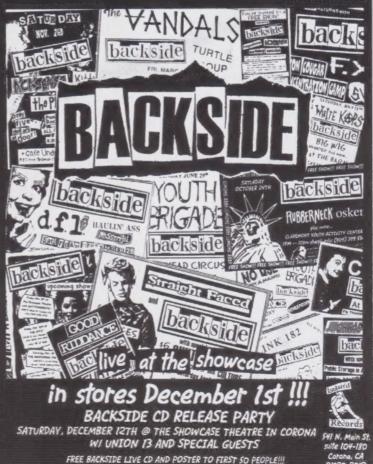




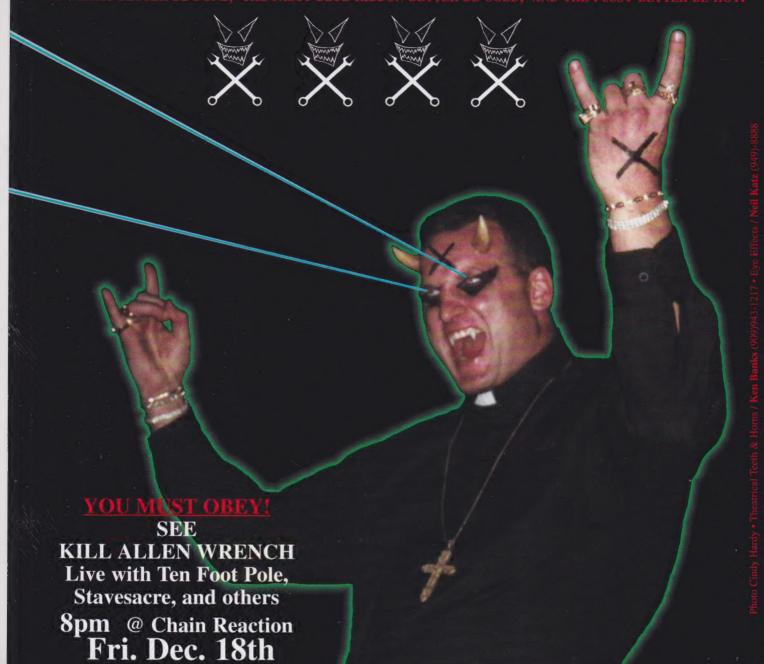
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